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# *African Violet*

MAGAZINE

MARCH 1953

VOLUME 6

NUMBER 3

ALBERT R. MANN  
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MAR 18 1954





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## **ALL AGLOW**

**LUMINOUS CORAL PINK with RED-RIMMED EYE. The deepest of all Pinks. Gorgeous large cupped blossoms on strong tall stems . . . blooming in easy abundance. Hardy and extremely vigorous in growth.**

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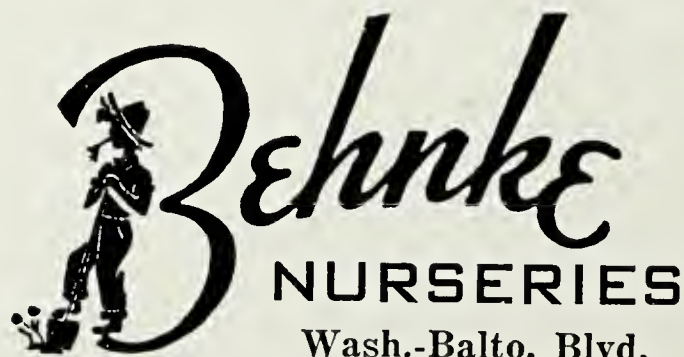
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**NOTE:** **ALL AGLOW** and **FANTASY GIRL** originated by Harvey Cox. Grown and developed by us exclusively.

Introduced and registered African Violet Magazine September 1952. See also "NEW TRENDS IN AFRICAN VIOLETS" by Alma Wright — **POPULAR GARDENING**. October 1952.



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**ogen**

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## VIOL-OGEN — The Secret of Fine African Violets





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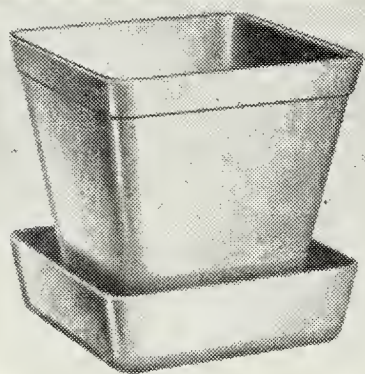
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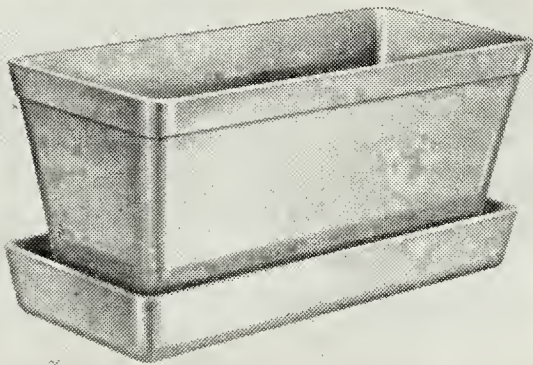
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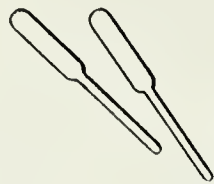
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Makes an ideal gift. Several lovely ceramic colors  
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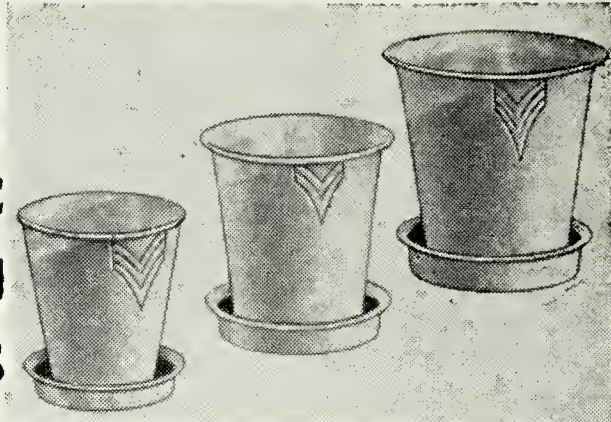
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- Manufactured to aircraft standards.

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For Quart bottles

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**DUES** — \$3.00 for a twelve months period. There are no \$2.00 memberships.

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**JUDGING SCHOOLS** — for information about holding a school to become a qualified judge write Ruth G. Carey, 706 Garden Avenue, Fountain City, Tennessee.

**AWARDS FOR LOCAL SHOWS** — write Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Maysville, Kentucky.

**CLUB NEWS** — send all club news items to the Club News editor, Maxine Wangberg, 1920 West Third Avenue, Perry, Iowa.



FROM THE EDITOR

*Dear Friends:*

The "Tell You Where" column on this page is being published with the thought that it will be useful. If anything has been left out you feel should be included we would appreciate your writing in about it.

Lost members again disturb me. The list is on page 40. It is a great worry not to be able to deliver their magazines to them.

Please, please do not make checks for dues, back issues and binders out in my name. It takes a lot of time to sign my Alma Wright on each of them . . . and besides I'm sort of lazy anyway.

Hope you plan to come to Nashville.

Most sincerely,

*Alma Wright*

**AFRICAN VIOLET PIN** — may be purchased from the pin chairman, E. Pearl Turner, 828 Kenmore Boulevard, Akron, Ohio. The Pin, or Lapel Button for men, can be had in sterling silver and blue enamel for \$3.50, or in 14 carat gold and blue enamel for \$12.50, including state and federal tax, plus packing and shipping charges.

When ordering please print your name and address. This pin is for National members only. Profits from the sale of these pins are the jewelers, only.

**MEMBERS' HANDBOOK** — is mailed out to all members of the Society. Write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee if you do not receive your copy.

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## PLANTS

## ROOTED CUTTINGS

- HEATHER QUEEN . . . . . Pink, girl foliage.
- HEATHER PRINCESS . . . Girl foliage, blossom white shading to pink center. Blooms are extra large, attractive.
- HEATHER LADY . . . . . Flat, glossy leaf. Pink bloom.
- HEATHER DUCHESS . . . Girl foliage. Blossom a delicate mauve.
- HEATHER . . . . . Girl foliage, somewhat pointed. Blossoms are the color of heather.
- JODY . . . . . Outstanding foliage, girl, quilted and waved. Blossom a blue black with two top petals tipped with red.
- BLACK AMETHYST . . . . Girl foliage, dark with a round shaped leaf. Blossom just the right shade of lavender, sometimes two tone.

GIANT GENEVA PINK . . Large deep pink blossom. Amazon type plant.

ALL ABOVE VARIETIES \$1.50 EACH

### ROOTED CUTTINGS AS FOLLOWS:—

Pink Luster, Dainty Duchess, Pink Fantasy, Hull's Crested Beauty, Pink Cheer, Naughty Marietta, Geneva's Daughter, Sunrise Supreme, Red Lady, Dupont Blue Delight, Hull's Blue Radiance, Giant Geneva Pink, Buttons 'n Bows, Suprita, Holly (sport of Ruffles), Magungensis, Congo Queen, Alma Wright, Evening Sunset, Sunset Lane, Hull's Arrowhead, Double Doris, Violet Beauty Supreme, Orchid Geneva, Pansy Beauty, Dupont Appleblossom, Ferne Leaf. **\$1.00 each 6 for \$5.00**

### ROOTED CUTTINGS OF ROSEONNAS AS FOLLOWS:—

Sheen, Kurl, Sterling, Vesta, Cardinal, Ideal, Comet, Trinket, Belle, Scepter, Grotei X, Summitt, Pansy, Pinwheel, Sun, Maple, Nugget, Necklace, Blue Harvest, Spade, Luster, Dream, Creole Queen, Jewell, Royal, Vesper, Scallop, Swirl, Dusk. **\$1.00 each 6 for \$5.00**

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Orders to be shipped as soon as weather becomes suitable, probably in April. Orders filled in rotation. All orders over \$6.00 postpaid. Under \$6.00 please add 60¢ packing and postage.

# DOROTHY YOUNG

2937 RUTLAND AVENUE

DES MOINES, IOWA



# African Violet Magazine



*A Quarterly Publication*

## C O N T E N T S

Vol. 6

March 1953

No. 3

FRONT COVER: Show Pink from Henry Ten Hagen's Greenhouse.

Page

A Tribute to Blue Boy Lucy A. Lewis .....	7
Thrip Henry Peterson .....	8
Growing Seeds on a Brick Mrs. Peter Passera .....	9
Boyce Edens .....	10
Boyce Edens Memorial Fund .....	11
Have You Ever Grown a Variegated Violet? Clara Pack .....	12
President's Message .....	13
History of Saintpaulia Evan Roberts .....	14
African Violets in the Home Reviewed by H. G. Harvey .....	16
African Violets as One Woman Sees Them Marion Howell Smith .....	19
Root and Crown Rots of African Violets Austin J. Ford .....	20
Key to Success — Perseverance Katherine Shepard .....	29
Show News and Views .....	30
Bigger and Better Blossoms .....	34
Verse .....	34, 72, 73
Must We Guess? Frances and Robert Nicholson .....	35
Clever Ceremony at Muscle Shoals .....	36
Brief Guidance from California Juanita Poisal .....	37
Special Award for Cross Genus Hybrid .....	37
Violets on Our Lapel .....	38
At Tinari Floral Gardens .....	39
Memory Jardiniere Marie Keeney .....	40
Question Box .....	41
Calling All Men .....	42
Registration Report .....	43
History of Oak Ridge Society Inez Bradford .....	47
Homing Pigeon .....	48
New Affiliated Chapters .....	50
Why Affiliate? Ada Magill .....	51
Finest Plant Food Ruby Jones .....	52
Mealybugs Julia Book .....	52
The Art of Growing New African Violets from Leaves Irene Pendleton .....	53
My African Violet Medicine Cabinet Ethel Thalheimer .....	57
Qualified Judges .....	62
Nashville Council .....	71
On Being President .....	74
Soil Recipes from the West Coast Clarissa Harris .....	75
Club News .....	76

## EDITORIAL STAFF

Alma Wright, Editor  
Box 1326, Knoxville, Tenn.

Mary Parker, Assistant Editor  
Harrill Hills, Knoxville 18, Tenn.

Evan Roberts, Research Editor  
355 N. Harrison St., E. Lansing, Mich.

Floyd L. Johnson, Advertising Mgr.  
79 West Gibson St., Canandaigua, N. Y.

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor  
1920 West 3rd, Perry, Iowa.

Henry Ten Hagen, Mgr. Veterans Affairs  
Box 95, Warsaw, N. Y.

Contributing Editors - Naomi Cotton  
H. G. Harvey

News Reporters - Harriet F. Lawton  
Emily Hodan Daisy Jones  
Martha Mears Ruth Dahnke  
Florence Foltz

Homing Pigeon Dept.  
Helen Pochurek, News Editor  
Arthur Road, Solon, Ohio

Iva G. Woods, Membership Mgr.  
226 High St., New Wilmington, Pa.

## OFFICERS

Floyd L. Johnson, President  
79 W. Gibson St.  
Canandaigua, N. Y.

Mrs. W. P. Dahnke, 1st Vice-Pres.  
5611 Newton Rd., R. 1  
Merriam, Kansas

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707 S. Fourth St.  
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## To Show Pink - *Lest We Forget*

### A TRIBUTE TO BLUE BOY

Come here, my little Blue Boy  
 And rest upon my knee —  
 While you hear this wondrous story  
 As it was told to me:  
 Away in far off Africa  
 Where you were wont to roam,  
 Among the ferns and crevices  
 Was a place you once called home.  
 A plant explorer found you  
 His eyes grew bright with glee,  
 Then tenderly he picked you up  
 With, "I hope you'll grow for me."  
 He petted you -- he fussed with you  
 For years, it seems to me,  
 But gravely you shook your little blue head —  
 How stubborn you could be!  
 Then finally you decided —  
 As I'm sure we all must do —  
 That you would learn to give and take,  
 And thus your cares were thru.  
 You even crossed the ocean wide

Our welcome guest to be,  
 And now you grace our living rooms  
 For all the world to see.  
 As you sit on my window sill  
 Lift your eyes and you will spy  
 Cousins and brothers by the score,  
 And 'twas you that made them try.  
 Yes, lift your head, little Blue Boy  
 Don't envy the frills and curls  
 Of the scalloped skirt or the ruffled face  
 Of those beautiful, gorgeous girls!  
 There are girls in pink and girls in white,  
 There are boys of lavender hue,  
 Sit tall and proudly among them all,  
 For credit to you is due!  
 Thus as you look around you  
 On the blossoms, flowering free,  
 You can well afford to wink and say,  
 "Where would you be without me?"

Lucy A. Lewis, Pownal, Vt.



# THRIP

Henry Peterson, Ohio

Thrips on African violets can be controlled or eliminated completely. By the use of sodium selenate thrips will just never be on your plants. Should you not desire to use sodium selenate, thrips can be controlled and in the home probably eliminated from your African violets by the use of present day spray materials. We believe sodium selenate is the best answer. We use it about once every eight weeks at the rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$  gram per gallon of warm water. This is watered on the top of the pots on plants that are not too dry. As probably some of this mixture will be splashed on the foliage, the plants are syringed off with warm water within ten minutes after the application. For the home violet grower we suggest contacting Neil Miller, Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, New Jersey, or the local distributor in your area handling his products for a supply of sodium selenate. His packages come with complete instructions on how to prepare and apply the material. Should you be growing violets on a large scale you might purchase the 100 gram or the 1 lb. (about 330 grams) package. This may be purchased directly from Plant Products Corp., Kennedy Ave., Blue Point, New York.

From the University of Illinois circular 695 we take the following instructions: "A stock solution of sodium selenate is prepared by dissolving 1 gram (about  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoonful) of sodium selenate powder in 1 quart of water. This stock solution must be diluted before it is used on the plant. Put 1 pint of the stock solution in a container

and add enough water to make 1 gallon. Apply this diluted solution to the top of the soil, using about 1 fluid ounce for a 3-inch pot and 2 fluid ounces for a 4-inch pot. Any solution falling on the foliage must be washed off immediately to prevent burning."

"Label the sodium selenate powder and solutions and keep them away from small children and pets. If any solution is left over after the plants have been treated, it is safest to dispose of it through the bathroom drain and prepare more when the plants are to be treated again. For continued protection against Cyclamen mites, sodium selenate should be applied every 4 or 5 months. More frequent applications may injure the plants."

"Sodium selenate can be safely used only on plants which are established and actively growing. If plants have recently been potted, repotted, or shifted, they should not be treated until after they have become established in the new soil and begin to grow. Since sodium selenate remains in the soil indefinitely, it should never be applied to soil which may later be used for growing edible plants."

For those who do not wish to use sodium selenate we suggest anyone of many of the present day spray materials, such as Optox, Optox Special, Vapatone, NNOR, DDT, Black Leaf "40" and Lindane. These spray materials generally should be used as recommended by instructions on container or with package. Lindane recently has been suggested as one of the best controls for thrip, used at the rate of 1 oz. to 10 gallon of water. Please note not to use any of the DDT home insect spray bombs on your violets, as in most cases these contain kerosene and are injurious to your house plants.

## BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLETS

Come in and choose from the finest collection of violets in this part of the country. Thousands of gorgeous plants on display -- over 100 varieties, including choice plants of many of the newer introductions such as Apple Blossom, Purple Lace, Ruffled Queen, California Dark Plum, Sea Shell, Sir Lancelot, Robin Hood, Pink Cheer and many others. All plants State inspected.

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# Growing Seeds on a Brick

Mrs. Peter F. Passera, N. Y.

Having been interested in the hybridization of African violets for several years, I have tried different ways of growing them from seed. My most recent method, and the one I like best, was on a brick.

I use a porous brick which has been submerged in water over night. On this I pack one-half inch of equal parts of vermiculite, sand and potting soil finely sifted. In a few hours this has absorbed enough moisture to be damp but not wet. On this I scatter the seed and set the brick in a bowl, in which I keep about a half inch of water. Seed were planted April 6 and in 6 days one violet seed had germinated; and each day more and more little green shoots appeared until the whole brick was covered.

The first few plants were large enough to pot by the last of June but I went away for a month, and since my husband was to care for the plants, I just left them on the brick and turned a glass baking dish over it. I set it in a nicely shaded place on the outside basement steps.

When I returned home all was well but plant number one was pushing against the dish, so I removed it at once. However, I left it on the outside steps until I could find time to do the badly needed potting.

In a few days I got things all ready and when I went to get the brick not a green leaf was left, just those bare stems sticking up. Well -- I was really sick! I wondered what could have done such a terrible thing, and on looking closely I found a caterpillar on the side of the brick. Needless to say, I killed him. Then I set the bowl containing the brick on a table in the basement intending to throw it away.

A few days later another member of our club was here and I showed her what had happened and she said, "Well you can't throw this away." She had found three more tiny plants. Now there are several more -- five months after the seeds were planted.

## NEW PLANT STAND

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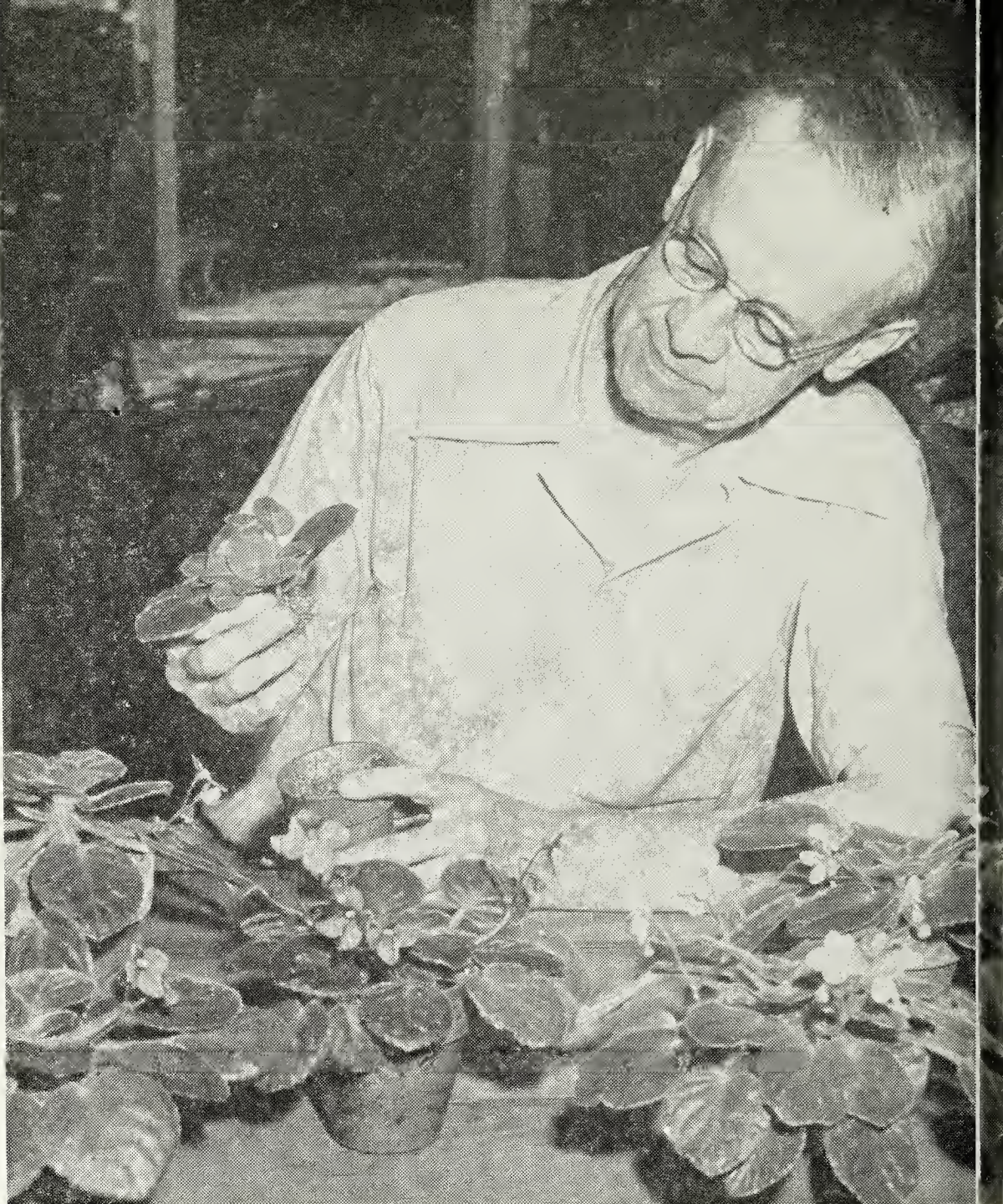
City .....State.....



# Boyce

# Edens

DECEMBER 2, 1952



Mr. Edens at one of the plant benches in his greenhouse checking over some of his plants.

The Society suffered a great loss with the passing of our beloved treasurer, Boyce M. Edens, who died Tuesday, December 2, in Atlanta, Georgia. He gave so generously of his time and efforts in guiding our Society with a gentle hand, which was always backed by his own keen insight into the many problems that have confronted us since our group was organized. Never did he spare himself where the Society was concerned, for he was always near with a thought and a willing hand to help.

Boyce Edens was loved and respected by all who knew him. He was a prominent welfare worker in his own city of Atlanta, where he was born, the son of the late James F. and Sara Edens. His father, a Baptist minister, helped found the Christian Index, a Baptist paper, and the Park Avenue Baptist Church. Mr. Edens attended Atlanta public schools, Locust Grove Institute and the New York School of Social Work. He devoted his life to welfare work, and was the Executive Director of the Atlanta Community Fund from 1935 to 1946, having held similar positions in Charleston, West Virginia, from 1926 to 1929, and in Elmira, New York, from 1929 to 1935.

Before World War I Mr. Edens was associated with the Family Welfare Society of Atlanta, but during the war he served in the Southern Division of the American Red Cross. In 1924 he was one of the first employees of the Georgia State Department of Public Welfare, and became associate director of the Atlanta Community Chest, a

position he held for two years. Because of ill health he retired in 1946, and since that time has worked extensively with garden clubs. Mr. Edens was for many years a member of the Men's Garden Club of Atlanta. Long recognized as an authority on iris and African violets, he was an organizing member of our Society and an Honorary Life Member.

Mr. Edens was also an active member of many civic groups. He was a member of the Civitan Club, the Gate City Lodge F. and A. M., the Scottish Rite of Atlanta and Charleston, West Virginia, and the Beni-Kedem Shrine Temple of Charleston. He was a leader in the Covenant Presbyterian Church and the Friendship Class, and the Wesleyan Service Guild of Druid Hills Methodist Church. His wife, the former Miss Annie Clyde Wright of Atlanta, died three years ago.

With all of his many interests, he nurtured the African Violet Society from its beginning; part of the credit for not only its founding but also its continued growth can be attributed to him today. We feel that this living, growing organization, composed of his own dear friends who knew him personally and through the Society, who shared the same common interest, is, today -- a living memorial for Mr. Edens. For it is a vibrant, active group of friends that he loved; and this, itself, typifies the Boyce M. Edens whom we knew and will always remember as one of our first leaders.



# A Boyce Edens Memorial

The idea to establish a Boyce Edens Memorial has been suggested. As Mr. Edens was the first and most ardent supporter of the Scientific Research Project, it is suggested that a fund be established in his memory to carry on this work. The Research committee has carried on its work for the past three years by giving scholarships and research grants to various universities for work with African violets. During this period some money for this work was solicited from the commercial growers and some from several of the local African Violet Clubs. Personal checks from several individuals including one from Mr. Edens were received. Also seven dollars from each commercial membership goes to this fund. The total received did not approach the sums needed for this work; therefore the grants were carried as budgeted items from the National African Violet Society treasury. This means that some money had to come out of your three dollar membership to support this work. With the rising costs of materials and services it will be impossible for the membership dues to support this in the future.

It is understood that many of the local Clubs have charity projects of one type or another. It is always good to have a high purpose for a club's existence. There could be no better purpose than supporting the Boyce Edens Memorial Fund. This money spent on scholarships would be of benefit in two ways, directly to the students who would have a chance to continue their educations; and, to you African violet lover, in increased knowledge about your favorite plant. It is only fair that money gained by the African Violet Society through shows and programs should return to the African Violet Memorial Fund.

Today scholarships and aid grants run from \$250 to \$2,000, per year. Some projects even require a three year agreement. Should a local club or group of clubs undertake a scholarship by themselves -- it is possible a project could be set up in a university in their vicinity. Others that cannot afford a full project, could add their support to the joint projects, about the country.

The research program that has been carried on so far by the African Violet Society has been accredited by experts to be the best program carried on by any plant society. This can be multiplied many fold. The scientists have found that the African violet lends itself very well to research work. Many other lines may benefit as the result of this work, even indirectly human nutrition and possibly medical lines.

May we invite you to bring up this suggestion for open discussion at your next club meeting, so that your ideas can be brought forth at the Convention in Nashville.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE





## HAVE YOU EVER GROWN A VARIEGATED VIOLET?

Clara Pack, W. Va.

My new variegated plant is a gem. The leaf shape resembles that of a White Lady, but perhaps a bit heavier and a darker green with a decidedly scalloped edge -- tiny scallops. But the interesting part is that of the bloom. A thin blue stripe starts at the base of each petal, growing

wider until the top of each petal is entirely capped by a deep blue. The outer edge of each petal is pink. Imagine the wonderful contrast in color. The plant is attractive and well shaped, very sturdy, with each flower stem having a cluster of from six to ten blooms. The plant blooms almost continuously and holds the blossoms well -- better than a lot of other varieties.

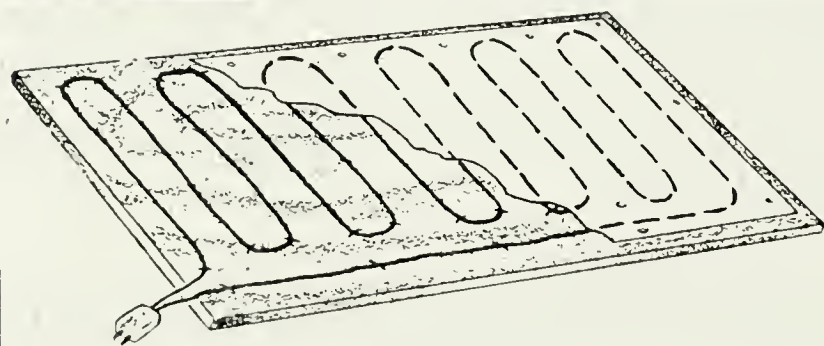
I cannot take the credit for propagation or development of this interesting specimen. Quite the contrary -- it "happened" from my error. This original plant came up in a pot containing a Blue Boy which had been given to me. Whether it is a crown, or came from a leaf cutting I do not know, but I rather think it was a crown from the old plant. The Blue Boy was my first plant, and I did not know then that one should keep the crowns off, so I just never noticed anything different until it bloomed, very close to the old plant.

However, I quickly recognized this variation and repotted it. Since, I have had the very exciting surprise of having a leaf cutting from this original variegated plant come into blossom, the exact counterpart of the original plant. It was the first of literally dozens I have grown from this six year old plant, and all have proved true. It was from the crown taken from the original. The old variegated plant is still blooming and doing beautifully, and the new baby has quite a few stems full of buds and more coming. I have now started leaves from this baby plant, and am quite anxious to know if they too will prove true. A commercial grower here in the community has already spoken to me about the plant, but I want to be sure I have something to offer first and am continuing my experiments here at home. I have several small plants from the same lot of cuttings that look as if they also might be true, since the foliage is the same, they are budding, and I am holding my breath. The new baby plant is as sturdy as the original, and I have high hopes for a truly variegated African violet.



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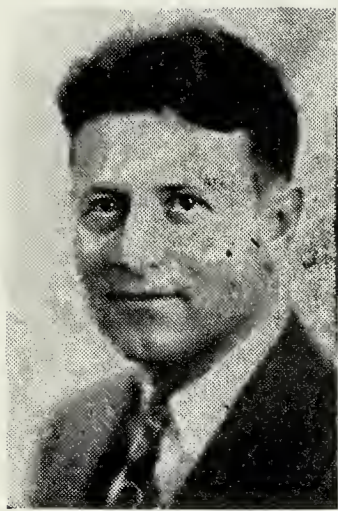
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# Meet Me In Nashville!

Another year has started -- 1953 -- and I am sure that you are looking forward to our Seventh Annual Convention. We are indeed favored to hold same at the Hermitage Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee on April 30th, May 1st and 2nd. The committees under Mrs. W. C. Dalton, have been working for many, many months and I know that there are many pleasant surprises in store for us.

Again we are having the Amateur Show and Commercial Exhibits. There will also be special rooms for display and sale of plants, accessories, etc. Society and club year books will be on display. Awards will be given on these exhibits (except, of course, the saleable items).

As a last reminder -- mail your registration (with the money, of course) in immediately. This also applies to your hotel reservations. These are going to be taken in the order in which they are received and -- if you wish to stay at the Convention headquarters hotel -- it is important that you take immediate action. Full information will be found in the Convention material in the center of this issue.

Perhaps it is well to clear up a few matters:

1. Only members of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., who have paid the registration fee, will be able to attend the convention and see the amateur and commercial exhibits.
2. Inasmuch as our facilities are smaller this year -- it will not be possible to come in after the meals are over to hear the speakers. There just will not be available room. I, therefore, advise your securing your luncheon, dinner and banquet tickets immediately.
3. Husbands and wives may attend the Convention and Annual Meeting, and share a membership with one vote.

Please send all correspondence, renewals, etc., pertaining to Affiliated Chapters to Mrs. E. G. Magill, 707 S. Fourth Street, Aurora, Illinois. Effective January 1, 1953 no group may retain the 50¢ per membership unless they are affiliated with the African Violet Society of America, Inc. It would help tremendously if each Chapter would make their renewals promptly and not ask for special privileges. It is impossible to grant such requests as we now have over two hundred chapters.

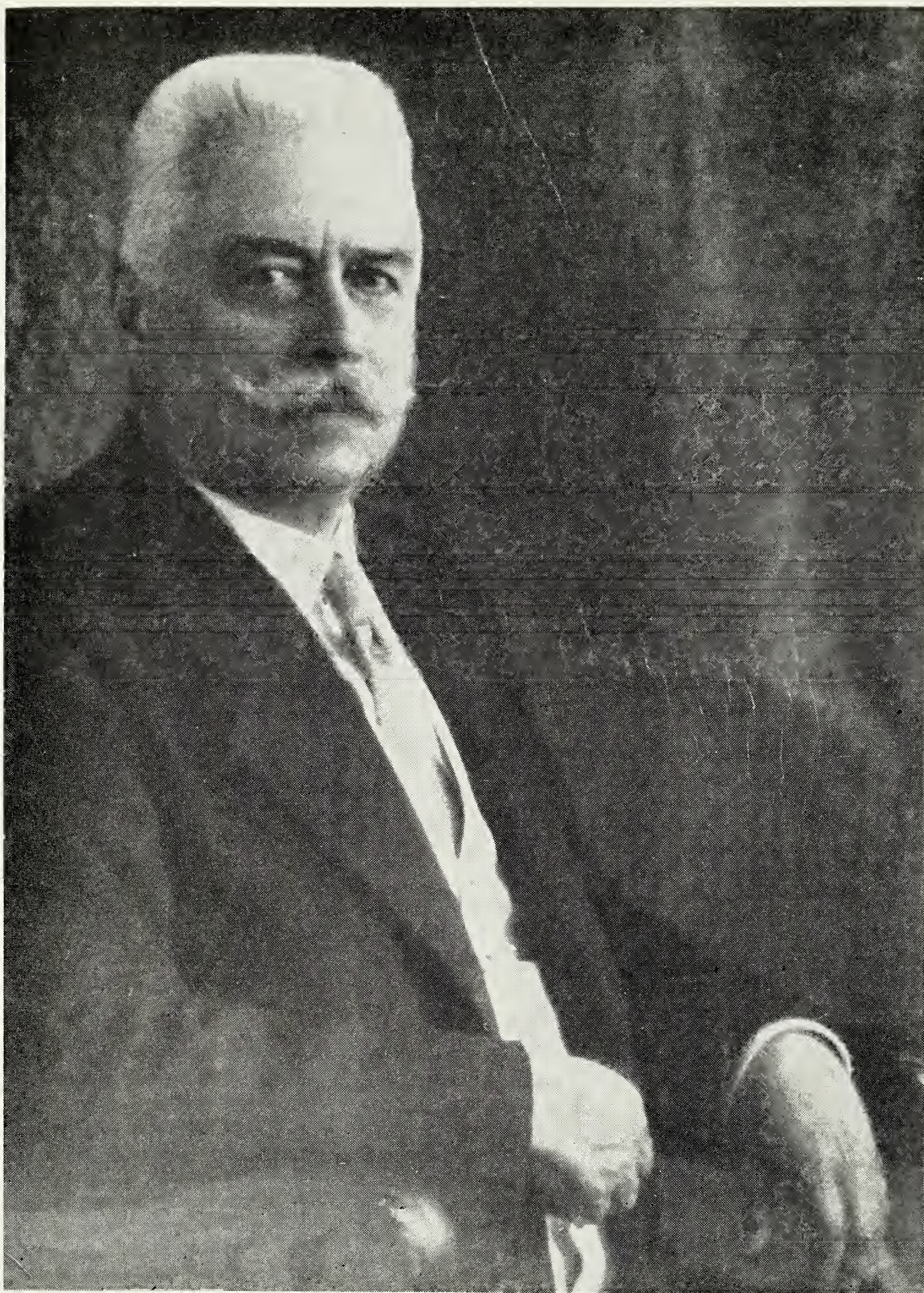
I want to thank the Sacramento Saintpaulia Society of Sacramento, California for the very generous check to be used by the Research Foundation. This is very much appreciated, and I know that all of us will benefit from this fine gesture.

Looking forward to the time when I can "Meet you in Nashville", I remain

Sincerely,

*Lloyd L. Johnson*





**Adalbert Emil Walter Redcliffe Le Tanneux von Saint Paul-Illaire, The discoverer of the African violet.**

**Born: January 12, 1860 -- Died, December 12, 1940**



# History of Saintpaulia

Evan Roberts, Mich.

THIS IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF ARTICLES CONCERNING THE HISTORY OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET.

## PART 1. DISCOVERY

In *Gothaisches Genealogisches Taschenbuch der Adeligen Hauser*, 1942, a German handbook of nobility and in *Wer Ist's* 1922 there is some brief interesting information about the discoverer of *Saintpaulia ionantha* the African violet. Adalbert Emil Walter Redcliffe Le Tanneux von Saint Paul-Illaire was his name. In a letter from his nephew to the author on January 12, 1952 he is referred to by a part of his long name, Walter von Saint Paul-Illaire. In a letter he wrote to Dr. L. Wittmack of Berlin on September 13, 1892 from Tanga, East Africa he indicated by his signature that he preferred his short name, W. von Saint Paul.

Walter von Saint Paul was born in Berlin on January 12, 1860. After a short period of university study he joined the First Elite Field Artillery Regiment and became a lieutenant in 1881. In 1885 he was employed by the German East African Company and became the general manager of this concern in the protectorate in 1889. In 1891 he entered the government service in German East Africa as District Governor.

In addition to serving as the administrator, Walter, as reported by his father in a letter to Sir Joseph Hooker who published the information in *Curtis's Botanical Review*, tab. 7408, owned plantations of vanilla and Indian rubber trees near Tanga. Walter found the African violet growing in two localities; one about an hour from Tanga in wooded places, in the crevices and cracks of the limestone rocks of the caves near the mouth of the Sigi river in the Amboni district, as well as in rich soil with plenty of vegetable matter. This first location was not more than fifty to one hundred and fifty feet above sea level. The second locality was in primeval forests of the Usambara mountains. Here he found the plants growing in shaded situations also, but on granite rocks, two thousand five hundred feet above sea level where it was much more plentiful



Marianee von Der Mulbe nee von Saint Paul-Illaire, Born; August 28, 1905. Daughter of the discoverer of the Saintpaulia.

than in the first locality. In *Gartenflora*, June 1, 1893, Herman Wendland in his description of the African violet mentions that Walter von Saint Paul gathered African violet plants in the summer of 1892 and sent them to his father Ulrich in Fischbach, Silesia, Germany.

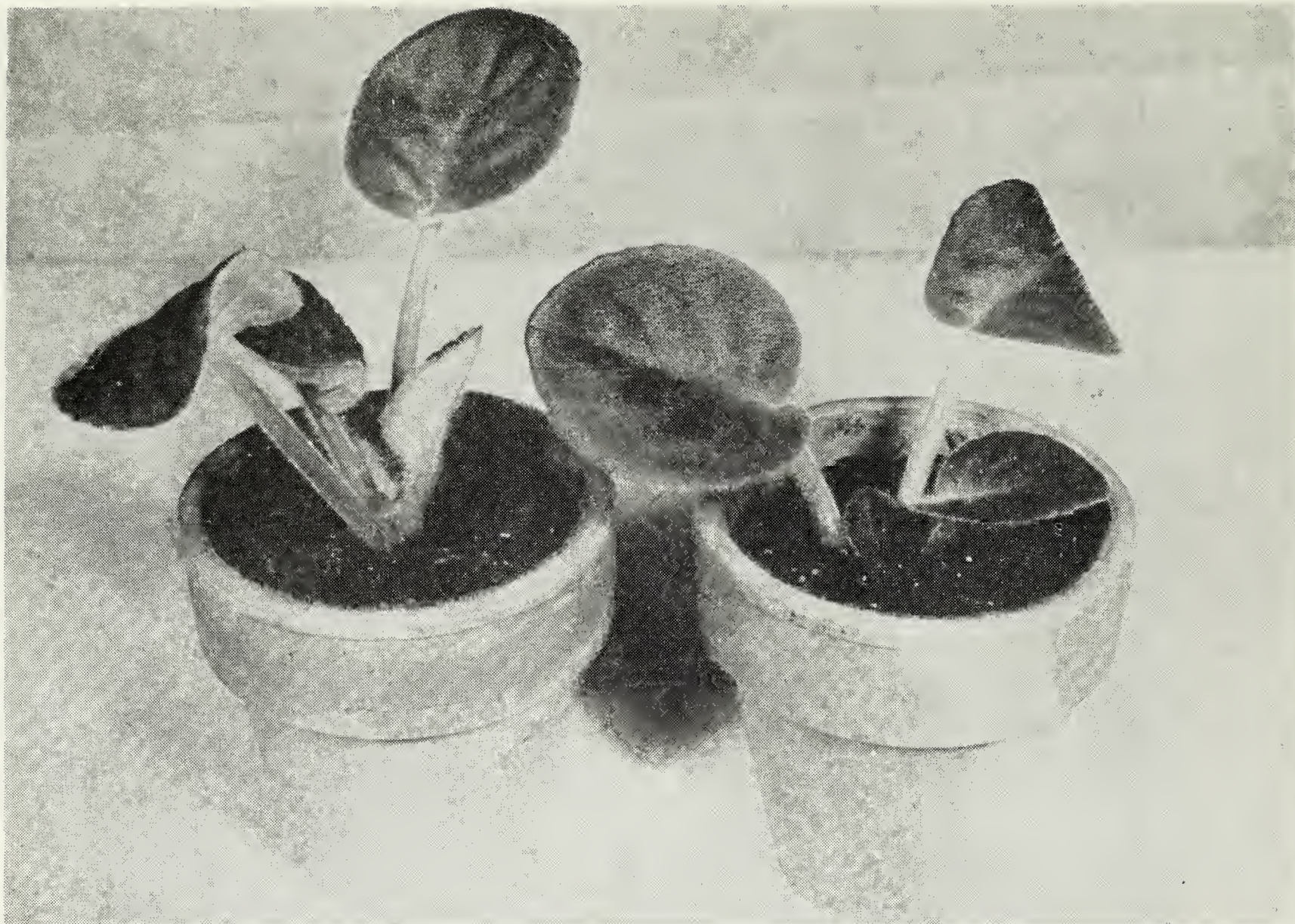
Although it is not recorded that Walter von Saint Paul discovered these charming plants while walking in the beautiful tropical forests, with his future wife, it could well be the case for it is recorded that he was married in Daressalam on February 10, 1893 to Margarethe von Gersdorff. His wife lived at Tanga with him and a daughter Marieluise Kathi was born there on March 29, 1898. His wife returned to Fischbach in Germany for the birth of their second child, Ernst Otto who was born on September 8, 1899. Walter retired from colonial service in 1900. After this he was active in colonial economics, especially with the East African Company and in colonial politics.

Another daughter was born in Koln am Rhein on August 28, 1905. This daughter Marguerite Marianne, kindly sent the author the photographs shown in this article.

Mrs. von der Mulbe, formerly Marguerite Marianne Saint Paul-Illaire, turned to the botanical gardens of Berlin for help in locating information about her father and grandfather but as

Cont. on Page 65





When potting young plants, be careful to keep the crowns above the soil. Plant on left is correctly potted; that on the right is potted too deep. Crowns of older plants should be kept just above pot rim. Courtesy University of Illinois, College of Agriculture.

# African Violets in the Home

D. Hickman and J. R. Culbert

(Reviewed by H. G. Harvey)

**T**he University of Illinois (College of Agriculture) has issued as Circular 695 a twenty-four page pamphlet with the above title which is a gem of its kind. It is written by D. Hickman, Instructor and First Assistant in Floriculture, and J. R. Culbert, Assistant Professor of Floriculture, both at the University. These two men have produced a well worth while, common sense story on how to grow African violets which is authoritative without being academic. It is well organized (the first heading is "Give Your Plants

a Chance to Grow"), well written, conservatively up to date, and excellently illustrated with 13 half-tones, each one of which means something.

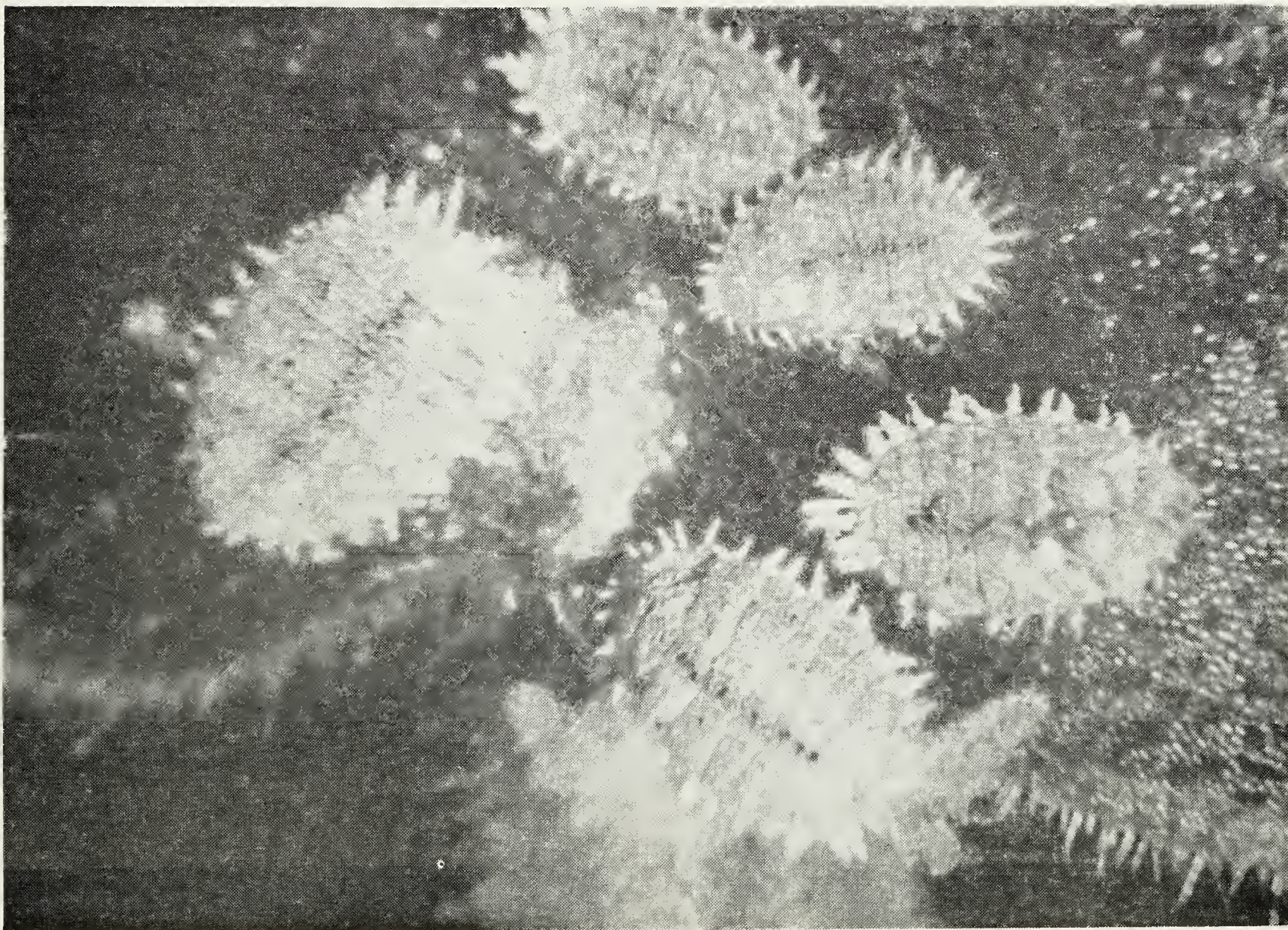
A very apparent attempt has been made to give unbiased and sound recommendations to the amateur grower on all of the fundamental processes of African violet culture without showing partiality for the author's personal preferences and practices. But at the same time, the authors have not fallen into the common error of so studiously avoiding taking sides on contro-





Above — Single-crown plants are obtained by separating the young plants produced by a leaf cutting and potting each of them separately.

Below — Mealy bugs are often found in protected portions of the plant. When left alone they multiply rapidly, forming white cottony masses, and become very difficult to control.





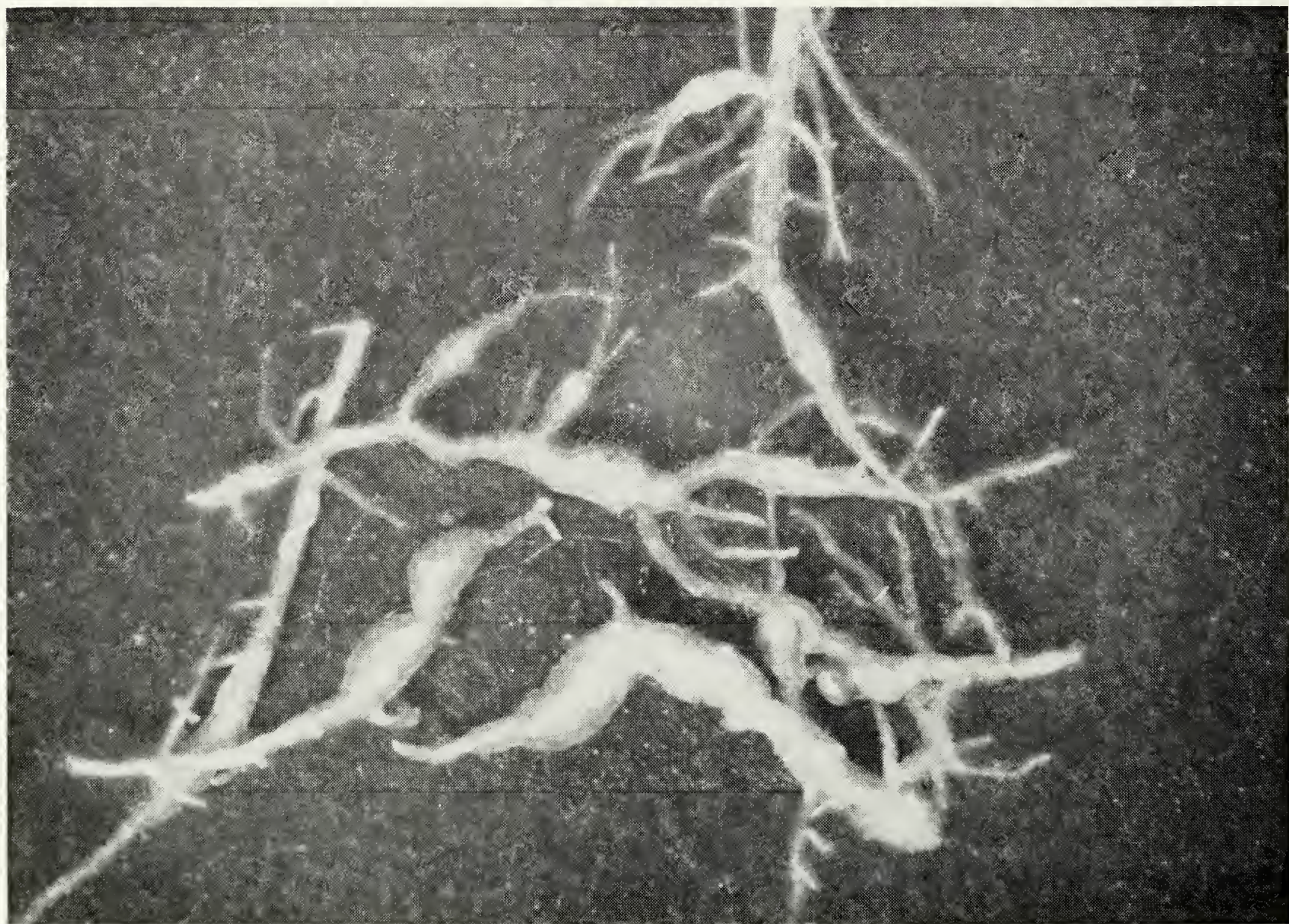
versial subjects that the final result has no character or vigor. They are perfectly willing to "stick their necks out" in the interests of clarity and definiteness. The result is a clear, readable discussion of violet growing fundamentals, well balanced and logical in its thinking. You can bank on any of the statements in this treatise being sound and representing intelligent "middle of the road" practice.

The discussion of light is no better and no worse than that in other and more elaborate treatises. In this writer's opinion, no adequate discussion of this exasperating subject has yet been printed, and Messrs. Hickman and Culbert are neither better nor worse than previous authors in this regard. For soil, they recommend the "two fifths" formula; two parts garden soil, two parts well rotted manure or leaf mold, and one part sand. Watering is covered adequately and honestly; fertilizing is recognized as essential but dangerous if over done. The authors seem to be of the school who introduce the fertilizer with the water rather than by mixing it with the soil. Vegetative propagation is covered thoroughly and clearly, employing divisions, offsets and leaf cut-

tings. The discussion of leaf cutting propagation, manipulation and division is excellent. The authors, however, hedge on single vs. multiple crown plants. They very sternly suppress their own personal preference for single crowns in the interest of fairness and impartiality.

As would be expected in a University publication, with the citizens of Illinois writing in to find out the proper cure for various troubles with their plants, the discussion of troubles is complete and illuminating. It is divided into three parts: (1) insects, mites and nematodes; (2) diseases; and (3) troubles caused by cultural factors. The authors have more respect for aphids than I have. I have never had any aphids, but they have had, and have a picture to prove it. They have less respect for mealy bugs than I have, and say that mealy bugs can be eliminated by a thorough spraying or dusting with either 5 percent DDT or a rotenone preparation. They cause some of us to smile wryly by their bland instructions to "repeat the treatment as often as necessary." Cyclamen mite gets its share of attention. Sodium

Cont. on Page 63



Root-knot nematodes usually attack the roots, causing swollen areas to appear, but may also attack stems and petioles.

Courtesy University of Illinois, College of Agriculture.





The above picture of a few of Mrs. Carlson's plants was taken last fall at a time when they were not in good bloom due to the hot weather.

## *African Violets as one Woman Sees Them*

by Vera Carlson  
as told to  
Marion Howell Smith

"Roses are red, violets are blue."  
That used to be, but is no longer true.  
Violets come now in deep purple,  
White and pink too.  
The hues of each color are ravishing new.  
Their smiling sweet faces bring fresh joy  
each day.  
If tenderly cared for—  
Gorgeous blooms will repay.

alive and happy. A whole new life has opened up for her, she is a joy to have around and her delightful experience can be yours . . . or mine!

One of these is Vera Carlson . . . Rockford, Ill. She rides her "Hobby" with zest on the merry-go-round. And the unlimited pleasure she has derived and that she spreads among her friends is the reward that comes to those who have found the hobby that is completely absorbing.

Any hobby, (and the list is as long as the list of names of people who seek them), will do just so it is not work. It must be pure enjoyment, relaxing, stimulating and absorbing. One must "get lost" in its pursuit. The old thrill of creating will again rest like a crown on the head of your endeavor. It will envelope you like a cloud so that there will be no time for looking back or regretting what is gone. There is time for seeking, exploring, adventuring . . . and fulfillment.

Cont. on Page 54

**M**iddle age, old age, need not be frightening! Women who have passed the time when they are kept busy with the demands of growing children and family cares often look to the future with trepidation. Of course some take this hurdle with the same aplomb that they faced every other crisis in their lives. But those who have the creative instincts more strongly than others, die a little when the book is closed on this period of their lives. But these instincts that continually shout for expression can be heard again, in other fields.

Lucky is the woman who already knows into what channel she will direct her energies; she finds there is really no gap in her life. She retains her youthfulness, she is stimulating, eager,



# Root and Crown Rots of African Violets

Austin J. Ford

THIS STUDY WAS CARRIED OUT AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, D. C. UNDER A FELLOWSHIP SUPPORTED BY THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ARE GRATEFULLY MADE TO THE SPONSORS OF THE FELLOWSHIP AND TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONS OR INSTITUTIONS: TO HENRY C. PETERSON, CINCINNATI, OHIO, AND TO BEHNKE NURSERIES, BELTSVILLE, MD., FOR PLANTS; TO THE DIVISION OF NEMATOLOGY, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOR MATERIAL OF ROOT-KNOT NEMATODES; TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE BOTANY DEPARTMENT OF GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY; TO THE AMERICAN TYPE CULTURE COLLECTION, WASHINGTON, D. C. AND TO FREEMAN WEISS, ITS CURATOR, FOR CULTURES OF MICROORGANISMS AND FOR COUNSEL DURING THE WORK.

Root and crown rots are often serious impediments to satisfactory culture of the African violet. Unfortunately little attention has been given to the actual cause of these diseases, although it would seem that their recognition and a more critical understanding of their activities might be advantageous in better methods of prevention and control.

By the use of the microscope various observers have noticed fungi and bacteria prominently present and have credited them as causes while nematodes, which are minute worm-like animals, likewise have been seen commonly in rotted tissues. But thus far their role has been little appreciated. The present account gives results of some ten months study of the rots of African violets and of the associated organisms as possible causes, using the facilities of the botanical laboratories and roof greenhouse at the George Washington University.

Diseased and healthy African violet plants were obtained from various sources. The diseased plants were examined critically to determine the various symptoms of root and crown rots and for evidences of microorganisms that might be responsible for the diseased conditions.

From over 150 healthy African violet plants of many varieties, cuttings, each consisting of a leaf blade and petiole, were placed in water in test tubes and in glass dishes containing vermiculite, to be used as healthy stock for inoculation studies. The test tubes were supported and held

upright by placing them in holes drilled in wooden blocks. (Fig. 1).

From tissues of diseased plants various fungi were isolated in pure culture using standard microbiological techniques. These organisms, supplemented by certain named bacteria obtained from the American Type Culture collection, Washington, D. C. and by some named nematodes supplied by A. L. Taylor of the Division of Nematology, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., were used in inoculating the healthy cuttings mentioned above.

The results of inoculations with these organisms made possible the recognition of those that brought about decay of healthy tissues and the separation of those having no effect. By recording the characteristic features of each unidentified organism and comparing them with standard published descriptions it was possible to tentatively determine the identity of each isolate.

As most growers have observed not all diseased African violets are affected in the same way. In some plants the stem rotted with the rot entering the petioles and blades, especially of the basal leaves. In others roots were merely dark-brown in color as the only evidence of disease. But in a few cases the conducting system was found to be discolored from the roots up to the tip of the leaf blade, at which point a softening and discoloration of the blade had spread towards its base. In still others, although the roots were rotted and the stems apparently healthy, the crowns were definitely dwarfed.



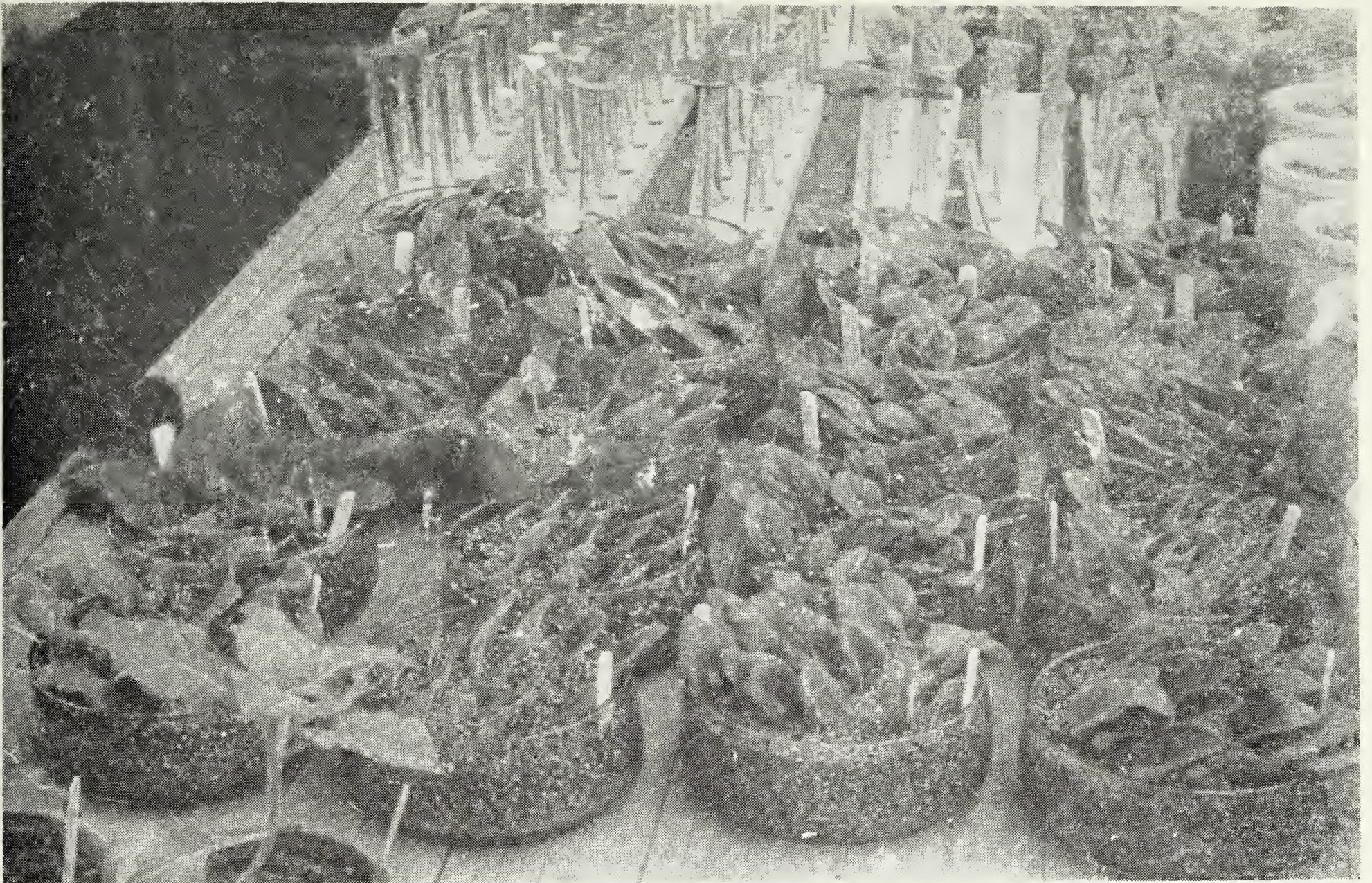


Figure 1 — Display of deep dishes with test tubes.

From over 150 healthy plants of many varieties, cuttings, each consisting of a leaf blade and a petiole, were placed in water in test tubes and in glass dishes containing vermiculite, to be used as healthy stock for inoculation studies.

In attempting to isolate the agent or agents of the disease, plants with the roots and crowns already rotted were used. The rotted parts, roots, stems, petioles, and leaf blades were sectioned and placed in petri dishes containing water. Some of the organisms in the rot grew out into the water. After this initial growth of the fungus into the water the sectioned parts were placed in other petri dishes containing a suitable medium. Corn meal agar was used for the isolation of simpler water molds and potato-dextrose agar was used for the isolation of the higher fungi.

After a few days growth on this agar in the petri dishes, the fungi which had grown out from the sections of rotted plants were tentatively identified. They were then isolated in pure culture and transferred to test tubes containing agar. These tubes were labeled and placed in a refrigerator for later use. Out of 274 identified growing out of the plant parts in the petri dishes, 224 were isolated and maintained in test tubes. (Table 1).

The two groups of cuttings, those in test tubes and those in glass dishes, were used for different purposes. Those in test tubes were inoculated with

the fungi isolated from the diseased plants. This inoculation had a two-fold purpose:

- (1) To select those isolates that would cause an unhealthy condition in the cuttings for inoculating plants in soil.
- (2) To select those isolates that had no effect on the cuttings, to be used for later inoculations in conjunction with nematodes.

In selecting the fungi for inoculation into the soil of the 3 inch pots the cuttings in the water in test tubes were used. The fungus was first grown on agar in a petri dish. Into each petri dish, after the growth of the fungus, were placed three cuttings. After remaining in contact with the fungus for twenty-four to forty-eight hours the cuttings were transferred back to the test tubes from which they had been removed. Here the roots were visible through the glass tube and the development of any rot could be observed. (Fig. 2).



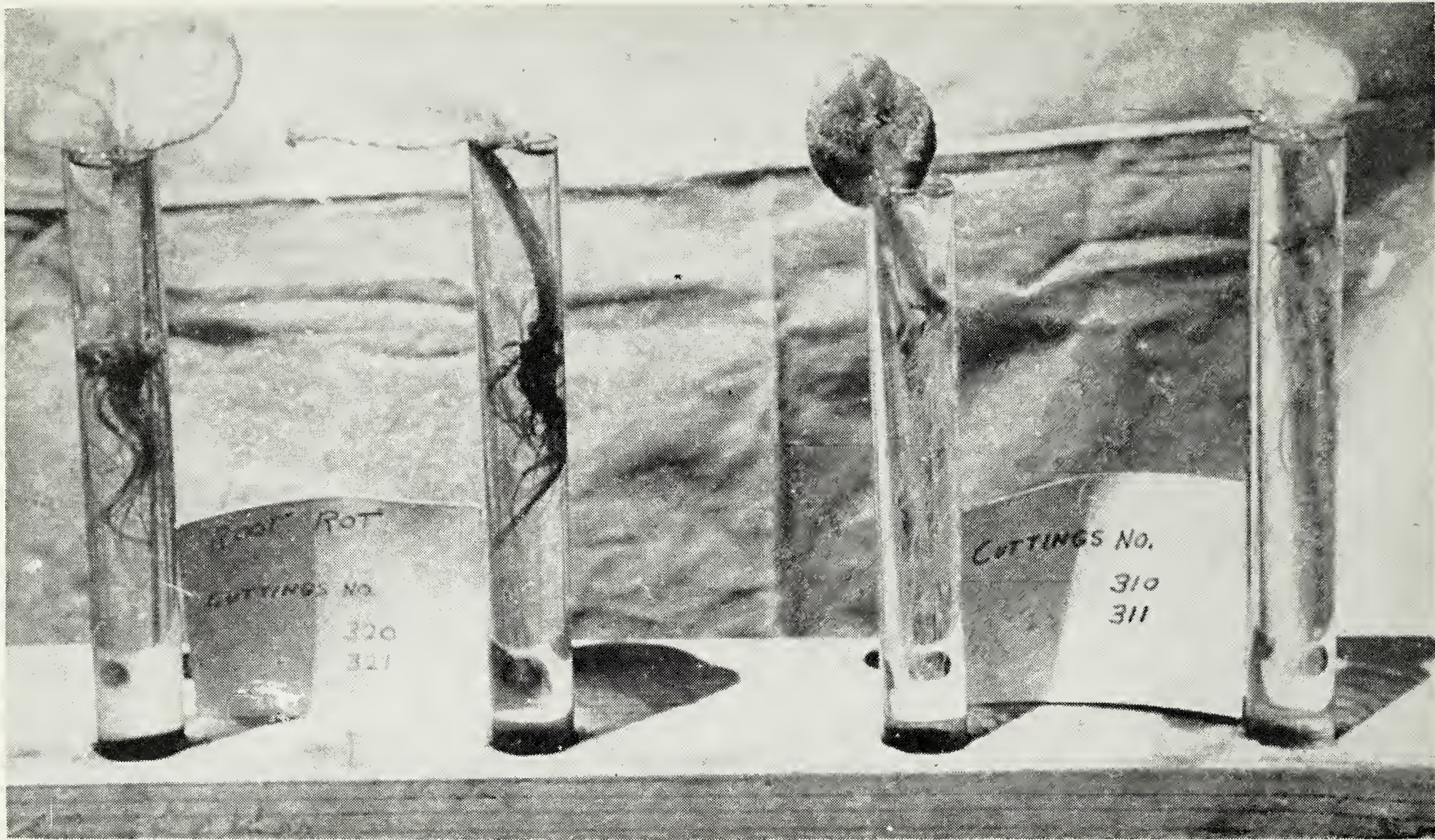


Figure 2 — Showing rot visible in roots in 2 plants on left. Healthy root systems on right.

Not all violets are affected in the same way. In some plants the stem rotted with the rot entering the petioles and blades. In others, roots were merely dark brown. In a few the conducting system was found to be discolored from the roots up to the tip of the leaf blade.

Leaf cuttings that had not formed roots were also placed on the fungi in petri dishes. This was for the purpose of determining fungi that could invade through a cut surface. (Fig. 4). Cuttings not brought into contact with fungi were used as controls. 465 cuttings were inoculated in this manner. They were numbered from 1 to 465. Fig. 3 shows rot in the roots, and none in the petiole of the cutting without roots, and contrasts with Fig. 4.

The cuttings started in vermiculite (in glass dishes) were later, after rooting, transferred to 3 inch pots. These pots contained soil made up of a mixture of two parts of hyper-humus to one part of peat. Sand was added in the ratio of one part of sand to six parts of the humus-peat mixture. This soil was found to have a high acidity. Calcium carbonate was used to bring the pH up to 6.8. Vigoro, 5-10-5, one gram per pot, completed the soil constituents.

Into each of the 3 inch pots containing the above soil was placed a cutting which had rooted in vermiculite. The potted cuttings were divided into groups of five. Into the soil of four pots in each such group was inoculated a particular

fungus isolated from the diseased violets. These fungi were first transferred from the test tubes held in the refrigerator to sterilized oats in petri dishes. On this medium the fungi were grown.

After growth was well established on the oats, a few of the oat grains were inserted in the soil around the roots of the cuttings in each of the four pots in a group. The fifth pot of each group was untreated and used as a control. 280 plants were thus potted, each four in a group inoculated with a certain isolate of the fungi and every fifth plant used as a control. These plants were numbered consecutively 1 to 280 for identification.

Of the 224 isolates recovered from diseased violets, 56 were inoculated into the 280 plants in 3 inch pots. These 56 were selected because of indications of pathogenicity after trial on the cuttings in test tubes. Of these 56 isolates, nine were found that repeatedly caused root and crown rots. Three of these isolates were *Fusarium oxysporum*. The other six were *Phytophthora* sp.

*Phytophthora* sp. was the most efficient destroyer. The incubation period after invasion is short. The plants were invaded up to the margin



of the leaf blade within forty-eight hours to one week after inoculation. Infection resulted in 100 percent of the cases with this organism, (Fig. 7). *Phytophthora* sp. is an ideal fungus to use for laboratory courses in Plant Pathology. It is readily grown on lima bean and pea agars. The zoosporangia are super-abundant and zoospores are readily seen.

The *Fusaria* were by far the most numerous of the fungi found on the African violet. They were recovered from all parts of the plant (Table 1). Their progress up the plant from the roots is much slower than that of *Phytophthora* sp.

Those fungi which could cause no rot in either roots or petioles were used in a separate experiment together with nematodes to find out if they could invade after the plants were exposed to nematodes. Rooted cuttings were placed in 3 inch pots containing the type of soil used in the previous potting. To this soil was added soil containing tomato roots with nematode galls on them. This latter soil was obtained from A. L. Taylor of the Division of Nematology, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. Pieces of roots with nematodes, nematode eggs, and larvae were distributed

through it. About a tablespoon of this soil was added to enough of the other soil to fill a 3 inch pot.

120 such pots were prepared. They were divided into series of 30 pots each. Each series of 30 pots was subdivided into set of 6 pots. The first four pots in each set had both nematode and fungus added. The fifth pot had nematode only, the sixth fungus only. Figure 8.

*Meloidogyne hapla* was the root-knot nematode used for inoculation in the first series of 30 plants. In each of the five sets of this series a different fungus was used. A fungus was added to the soil by the method of spreading oats, on which the fungus had grown, around the roots. All of this series, with the exception of one plant remained healthy and grew to large size. At maturity they flowered normally. Neither fungus rot or nematode galls were found on any of these twenty-nine plants. The exception had a rot but no nematodes were found. (Table 11).

*Meloidogyne incognita* var. *acrita* was the root-knot nematode used for inoculation in the second series of 30 plants. *Fusarium*, an unknown,

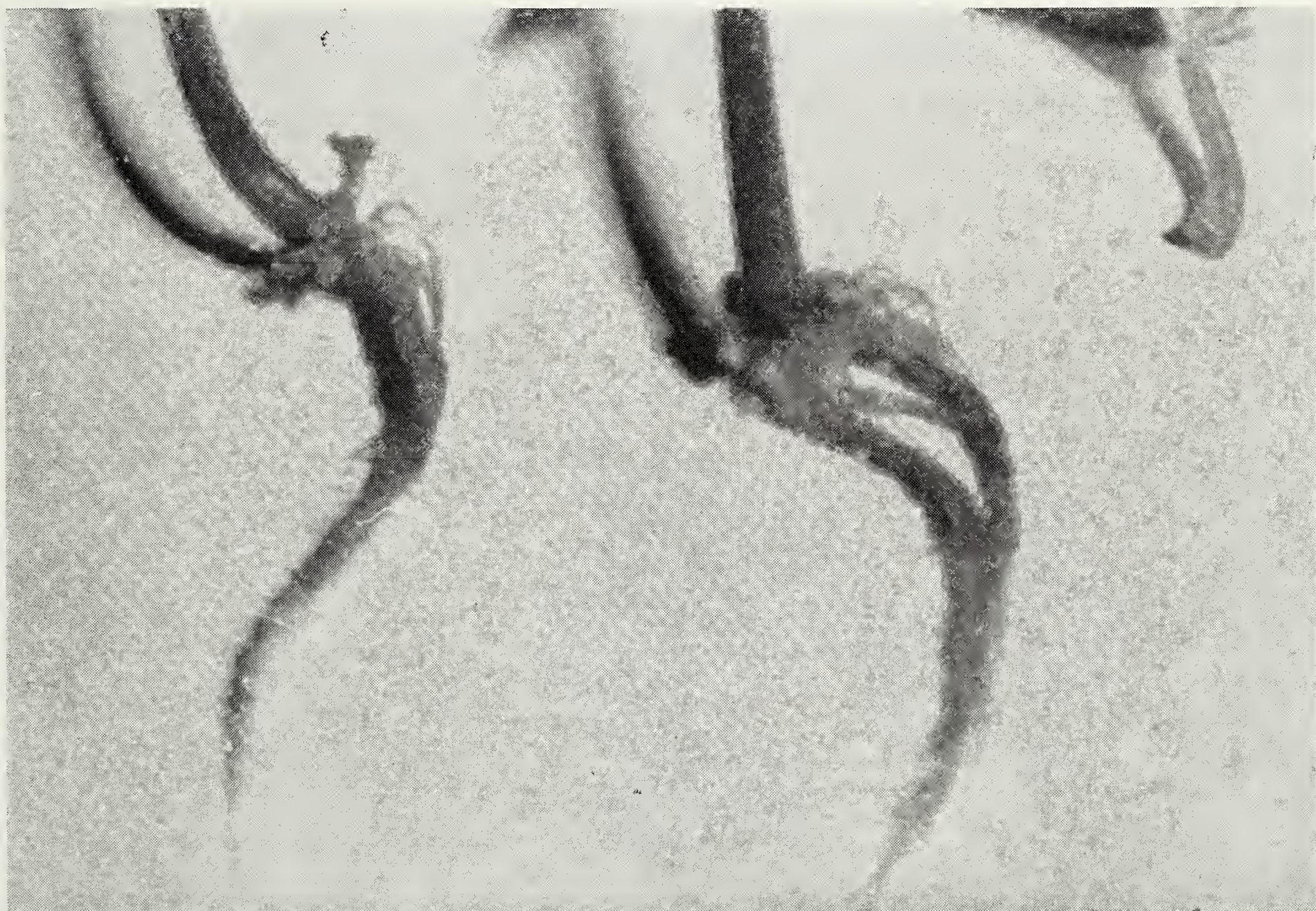


Figure 3 — Rots in the roots of cuttings, but none in the cuttings without roots.

Of the 224 isolates recovered from diseased violets, 56 were inoculated into the 280 plants. Of these 56 isolates, nine were found that repeatedly caused root and crown rots. Three of these isolates were *Fusarium oxysporum*. The other three were *Phytophthora* sp.



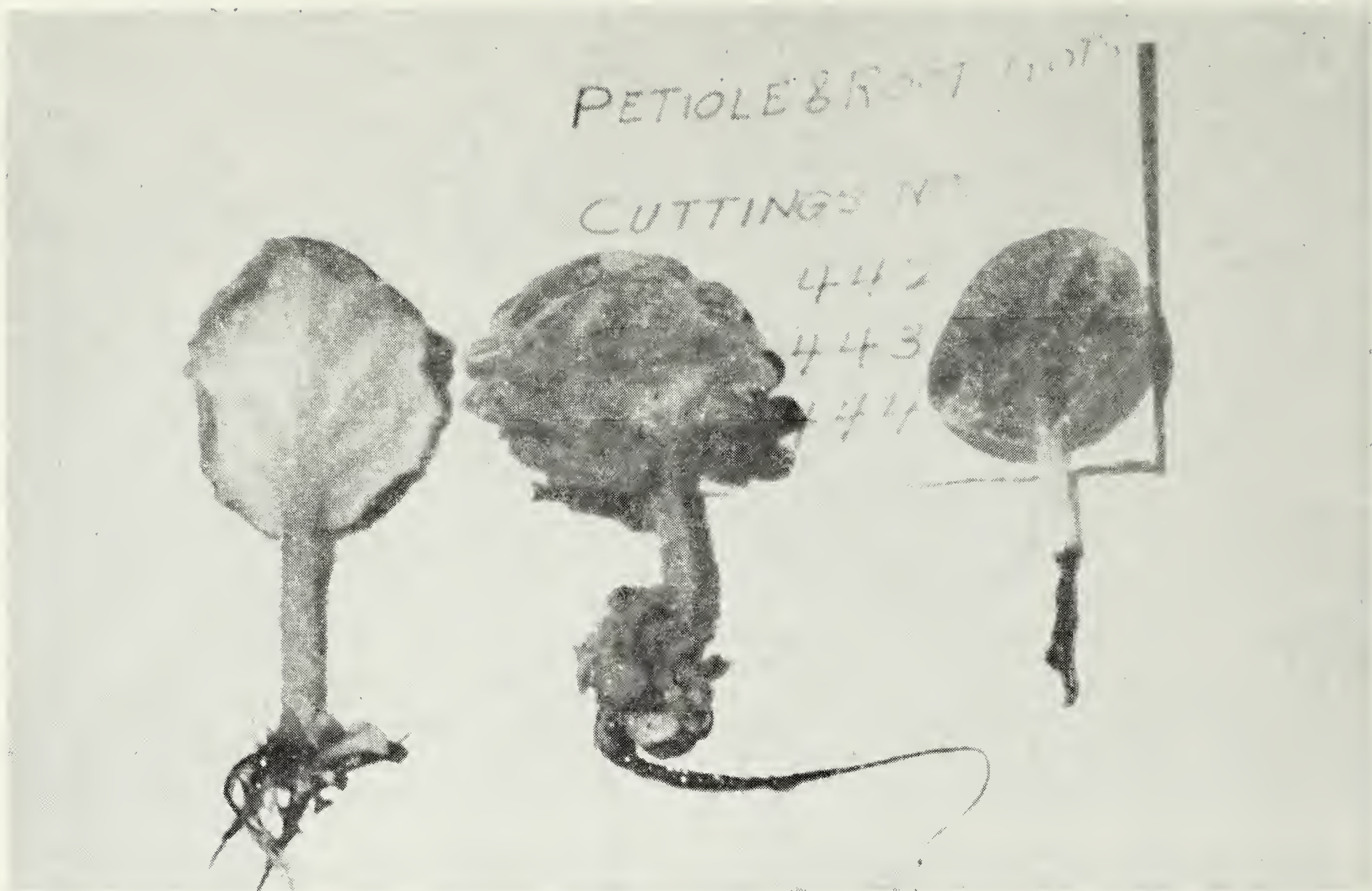


Figure 4 — Rot in roots. Also in petiole of cutting without roots.

Figure 5 — Four plants inoculated with both fungus and nematode destroyed. The plant with nematode and plant with fungus only are healthy.







Effect of *Meloidogyne incognita* var. *acrita*-fungus inoculations. This was the root-knot nematode used for the inoculation in the second series of 30 plants. *Fusarium*, *Rhizoctonia* and *Pythium* species were the fungi used. All the plants but two were eventually destroyed.

Figure 6 —

*Rhizoctonia* and *Pythium* species were the fungi used. All the plants but two were eventually destroyed.

The nematode *Meloidogyne incognita* var. *acrita* was so mixed in with the soil of the third series of 30 plants. The first set was inoculated with a species of the fungus *Pythium*, the second set with *Fusarium oxysporum*, the third with *Rhizoctonia solani*, the fourth with *Fusarium solani* and the fifth with a species of *Chaetomella*. Six weeks after inoculation 25 plants of this series had rotted (Fig. 6). Two months later all but one rotted (Table 11).

In the fourth series of 30 plants the nematode *Meloidogyne hapla* was again tried. The first set had a species of *Chaetomella* inoculated into the soil. The plants of the whole set rotted. The second set was inoculated with a species of *Trichoderma*. All of the plants rotted. In the third set with a different isolate of *Trichoderma* all plants were destroyed by rot. In the fourth set, containing *Fusarium oxysporum*, 3 plants with both nematode and fungus, rotted. The other three were all healthy. (Fig. 8). All of this series but three plants finally rotted. (Table 11).

Of the 80 plants inoculated with both nematodes and fungi, 57 plants, or approximately 71%, rotted. Discounting the first series, since it was

an exception due to some unknown factor, 56 such plants rotted out of 60 inoculated, or 93%. The unknown factor was probably temperature, the first series with *Meloidogyne hapla* having been inoculated in wintertime, the second series when temperatures were higher. The bacteria used for inoculation into healthy violets were not obtained directly from diseased plants. Four species were received from the American Type Culture Collection. These were: *Erwinia carotovora*, *Erwinia atroseptica*, *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* and *Pseudomonas solanacearum*.

Cuttings were grown in 3 inch pots in the standard soil used for all of the foregoing experiments. The pots were divided into sets of five with the cuttings in the first four pots of each set inoculated with a species of bacteria. The fifth plant of each set was used as a control. Tomato plants were inoculated at the same time as the violets to check on the virulence of each of the species of bacteria. They all infected the tomato plants.

None of the controls was affected. *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* caused no infection in the African violet in this trial. The other three species of bacteria rotted all plants inoculated with them. *Erwinia carotovora* and *E. atroseptica* were inoculated through a wound in the petiole of the plant. The rot started at the wound and worked first up the plant, then down, or in some



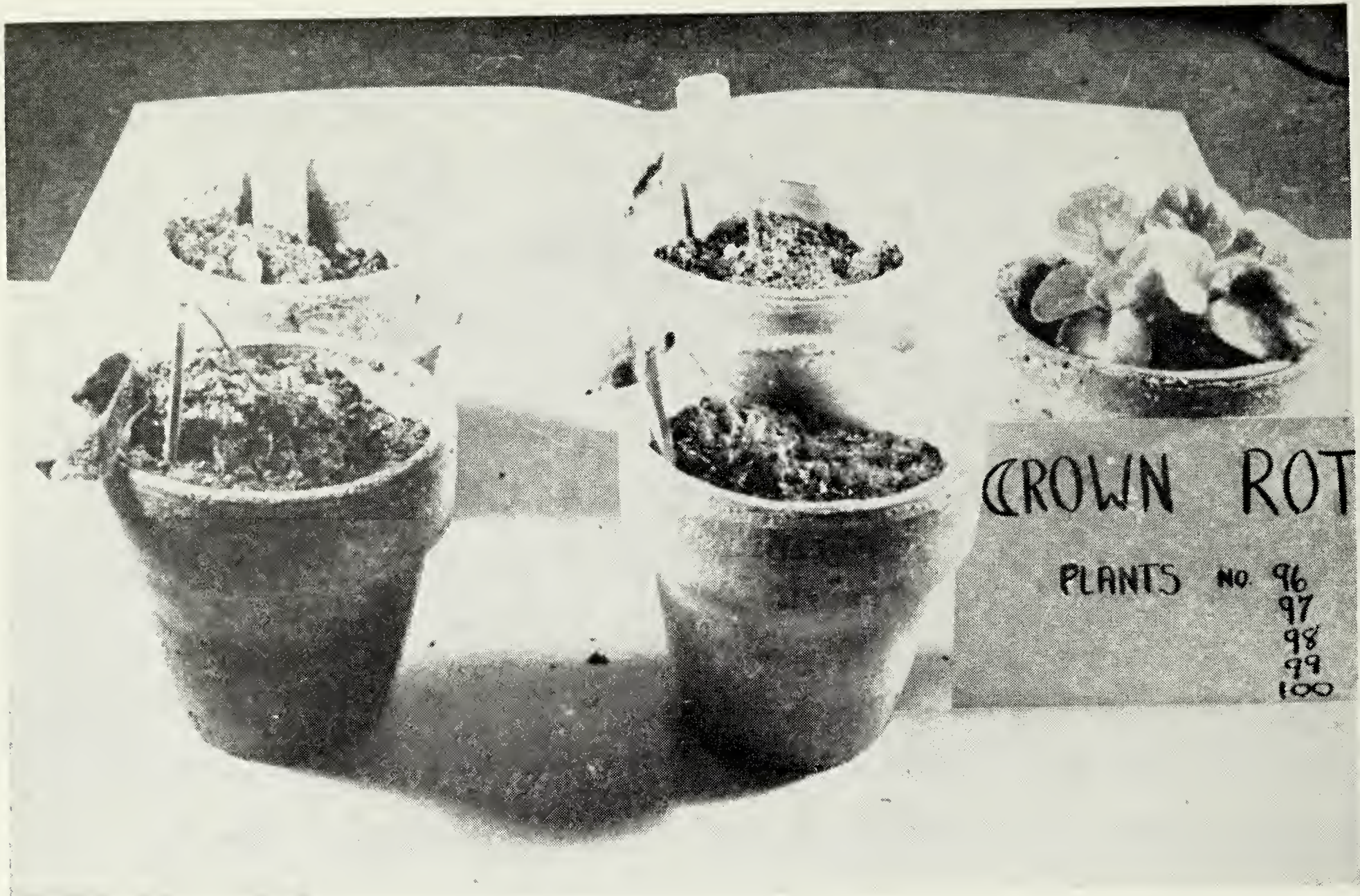


Figure 7 — Effect of *Phytophthora* sp. on African violets.

This isolate is the most effective destroyer of plants. The plants were invaded up to the margin of the leaf blade within 48 hours to one week after inoculation. Infection resulted in 100 per cent of the cases with this organism.

Figure 8 — Effect of *Meloidogyne hapla*-fungus inoculations.





Table 1

List of Fungi Isolated From Root and Crown Rots of African Violet

	Isolates From Roots	Isolates From Stem	Isolates From Petiole	Isolates From Blade	Total
Fusarium	46	28	37	23	134
Rhizoctonia	15	10	9	12	46
Pythium	2	4	9	1	16
Phytophthora	2	3	7	0	12
Alternaria	0	0	2	8	10
Papulaspora	3	0	2	1	6
Pullularia	1	3	1	1	6
Stemphylium	1	0	4	0	5
Trichoderma	2	2	1	0	5
Acrothecium	0	0	1	3	4
Mycelia sterilia	4	0	0	0	4
Botrytis	0	0	0	3	3
Sclerotium bataticola	0	3	0	0	3
Mucor	0	0	1	2	3
Chaetomella	0	0	3	0	3

One or two isolations were also made of Zygorhyncus, Phycomyces, Rhizopus, Monilia, Pestalozzia, Cylindrocarpus, Cephalosporium, and Colletotrichum species.

cases it started down the plant first and later worked up. In two instances it was confined to the area of the incision. The plants finally broke off at this point. Pseudomonas solanacearum was grown in a broth which was poured around the roots of the violets. The rot proceeded up the petiole to the leaf blades and finally destroyed the whole plant.

During the course of this research a great variety of fungi and representatives of other groups of organisms were found. The fungi most significant as pathogens were Phytophthora and Fusarium. Of these Phytophthora is most important. The species is yet to be described, and named if new.

The results of the experiments with nematodes indicate that their presence in the soil around the

roots of the violet enables fungi which alone can't invade the violet, to gain entrance and cause rot.

Effect of Meloidogyne hapla-fungus inoculations -- on next page.

This root-knot nematode was used in the first series of inoculations. In each of the five sets of this series a different fungus was used. The first set had a species of Chaetomella inoculated into the soil. The plants of the whole set rotted. The second set was inoculated with a species of Trichoderma; all of the plants rotted. In the third set with a different isolate of Trichoderma all plants were destroyed by rot. In the fourth set, containing Fusarium oxysporum, three plants with both nematode and fungus rotted. The other three were healthy. All of this series but three plants finally rotted. See Figure 6 and Figure 8.



Table 11

Results of Nematode and Fungus Inoculations

1. Nematode: *Meloidogyne hapla*. Observations two months after inoculations.

Fungi	Nematode and fungus		Nematode only		Fungus only	
	No. of plants inoculated	No. showing disease	No. of plants inoculated	No. showing disease	No. of plants inoculated	No. showing disease
Fusarium	4	0	1	0	1	0
Chaetomella A	4	0	1	0	1	0
Chaetomella B	4	0	1	0	1	0
Zygorhyncus	4	0	1	0	1	0
Pythium	4	1	1	0	1	0

Fungi 2. Nematode: *Meloidogyne incognita* var. *acrita*.

Fusarium	4	4	1	1	1	1
Unknown	4	4	1	1	1	1
Rhizoctonia	4	3	1	1	1	1
Fusarium	4	3	1	1	1	1
Pythium	4	4	1	1	1	0

Fungi 3. *Meloidogyne incognita* var. *acrita*

Pythium	4	4	1	1	1	1
Fusarium	4	4	1	1	1	1
Rhizoctonia	4	3	1	1	1	1
Fusarium	4	4	1	1	1	1
Chaetomella	4	4	1	1	1	1

Fungi 4. *Meloidoygne hapla*

Chaetomella	4	4	1	1	1	1
Trichoderma A	4	4	1	1	1	1
Trichoderma B	4	4	1	1	1	1
Fusarium A	4	3	1	0	1	0
Fusarium B	4	4	1	1	1	1



# KEY TO SUCCESS - Perseverance

Catherine Shepard, Va.

**I**t all began on Sunday July 17th, 1949. My Birthday was on the 15th and my children came over the following Sunday from Washington, D. C. and Arlington, Virginia. I had moved a few months previously, with one of my daughters to a new community outside Alexandria, Virginia.

The sentence was NO RESPONSIBILITIES and NO ACTIVITIES, in other words I was "Put on the shelf." It didn't matter so much at that time, but after a few months I was straining at the leash. This particular Sunday there was an advertisement of Behnke's about African violets. If you bought three, one was given free. Why, I will never know, but I asked my daughter who lived in Washington if she would go to Behnke's and buy me 6 plants. With the two free ones that would make 8 in all. I paid for them with money given me for my birthday. I wasn't particularly interested in the plants. One was brought to me

while I was in the hospital a few years previously. I heard you could root the leaves by putting them in water, so I had tried it and grew plants I gave to my neighbors keeping one or two for myself. I have never known the name of that plant. But I was able in 1946 to exchange one of them for Iris, which leads on to another story about African violets.

I received the plants on July 19th, and they were all in bloom. There was White Lady, Orchid Beauty, Blue Bobby, Heavenly Blue, Pinkie, Pink Leatherneck, Sailor Boy and another pink one. I looked at the plants and wondered what I was going to do with them. I hadn't been able to do anything for so many months and I knew they would have to have some attention. I put them on a table in my room and kept watching them until the BUG bit me.

Cont. on Page 66



Mrs. Shepard





One of the lovely displays of new varieties of plants in the Show, by the African Violet Society of Greater Pittsburgh.

## SHOW *NEWS and VIEWS*

### PITTSBURGH EXHIBIT -- PILGRIMAGE

One of the most excitingly beautiful exhibits of African violets held this year was presented on October 22 by the African Violet Society of Greater Pittsburgh. This Society's annual pilgrimage, outlined in a handsome, printed programme containing maps of the tour, was comprised of four homes in the Glenshaw community. Each hostess featured a different phase of the violets management and display.

Mrs. Cabbage, president of the society and the owner of 500 plants, displayed her arrangements on a sun porch which admitted light from three sides. The windows, dressed with draw curtains, enable Mrs. Cabbage to regulate the light according to the violet's needs. Mrs. Cabbage has gone far in the cultivation of violet plants, both growing them from seed and leaf cuttings, and, more important, using her own method of pollinating. It is to pollination that she contributes her 200 varieties -- and to letting them grow under normal conditions.

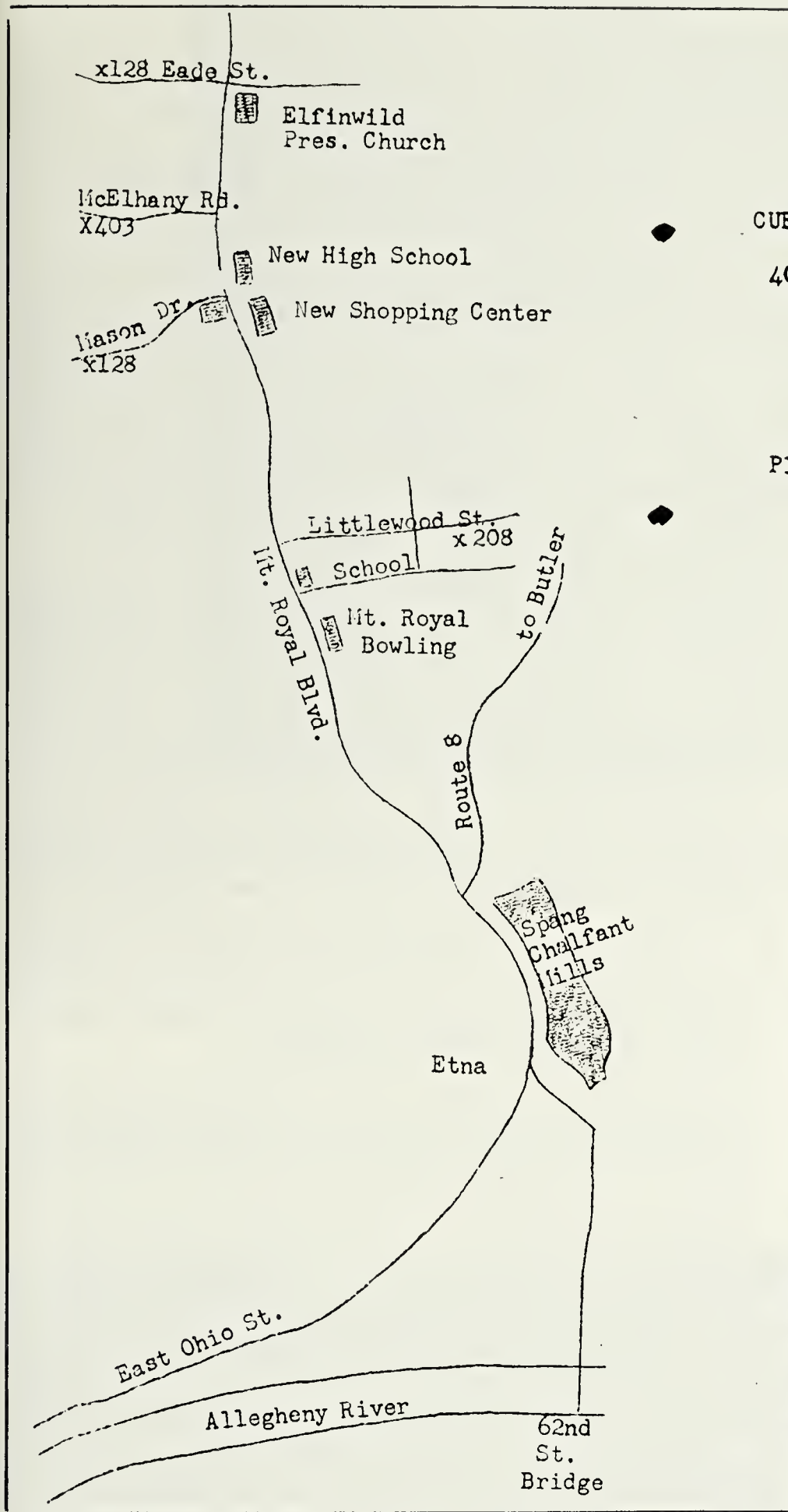
Mrs. J. A. Finney, on the other hand, has been experimenting with fluorescent lighting, the

method by which her plants are not dependent upon daylight. Mrs. Finney's collection is in her basement, which was of interest to apartment dwellers, whose windows do not afford sufficient sunlight for the plants.

Visitors at the home of Mrs. Maurice Rabin saw plants displayed in containers suitable to any type of home furnishings. The forty plants of Mrs. Rabin were supplemented by those of another member, making an exhibit of 150 plants. Ordinarily Mrs. Rabin, whose home is in the modern motif, masses her plants in large containers. But she also finds that antiques blend nicely with her furnishings if they are the "right thing."

For the tour, Mrs. Rabin planned receptacles in the traditional, colonial and modern manner. To fit a contemporary setting, Mrs. Rabin had a large violet plant in the top of a black wire "dress form." The traditional containers were floral china jardinières. The colonial was typified by plants in a brass cruet, which formed a centerpiece for the luncheon table. Accenting the colors of the violets were purple place mats and lavender napkins, with the setting completed by gray china and gold-colored flat ware.





## H O M E S

CUBBAGE residence (Mrs. David  
403 McElhany Road, Glenshaw

500 Plants

Many New Varieties

Plants grown on Large Sun Porch

Tea Served 12:00 to 4:00



Above —

This lovely guide for the pilgrimage, given by the greater Pittsburgh Society, was presented to each member on the tour. It contained a map of the pilgrimage and detailed information as to the different hostesses, the hours they received, the refreshments served, and the number of plants on display as well as the method of culture.

The fourth hostess, Mrs. C. J. Dietz, grows plants in her collection of teapots. Many of her 250 plants she has propagated herself. She displayed the plants as they grow, in natural sunlight, with approximately 150 varieties shown.

Tea and cookies were served by Mrs. Cubbage between noon and 4:00 p. m. Part of the proceeds from the tour was given to African Violet Research Fund, especially for experiments with fluorescent lighting. The remaining will be used for future club programs. One of the speakers this year was our editor, Alma Wright. If next year's pilgrimage reaches the exotic proportions of this year, we are sure the society, whose membership now hovers around the 200 mark, will continue with increasing popularity.

Courtesy of the PITTSBURGH PRESS  
Grace Proven, Press Club Editor





Above, Mrs. Maurice Rabin and the President of the African Violet Society of Greater Pittsburg, Mrs. David Cubbage, looking over one of the exhibits in the show.

## WEBSTER GROVES MISSOURI

On April 6, 1952 the Webster Groves Violet Club, in conjunction with the Viking African Violet Club of Greater St. Louis and the Normandy African Violet Club sponsored their first Violet Show, and the first Show of its kind ever to be held in the St. Louis area. It was held in the Knights of Columbus home in Webster Groves, Missouri. Photograph is at bottom of page.

The plants were arranged according to color groups, on tables covered with white corrugated paper. In front of each plant was a card bearing the name of the plant and its exhibitor. The tables were arranged around the room, and in the center of the room were the many arrangements for use on coffee and luncheon tables using crystal goblets, candelabra with long tapering white candles and cut glass bowls holding blooming plants. Many unusual table settings were displayed.

There was a propagating exhibit, a disease and remedy table and a for sale exhibit, where dirt, pots and other essentials for the growing of African violets were for sale.

More than 3200 visitors attended the show and more than 70 signed the register that they were interested in joining an African Violet Club.







Taken at the Third Annual Show of the African Violet Club of Trenton, one sees the many interesting displays -- as well as the many interested guests. Club members served as hostesses and guides.

## TRENTON CLUB

The African Violet Club of Trenton held their 3rd Annual Show on October 10th and 11th at the War Memorial Building in Trenton.

There were 352 plants in competitive entry, placed on informally arranged tables covered in purple.

Sections of the show included variety classes, self-culture, decorative -- plants in glass, metal, basket, china, and novelty containers, and conversation pieces -- "special day" centerpieces and breakfast trays. These sections were open only to members.

In the non-members' section, there were entries on varieties, junior, double and multiple crown plants.

We also had a section for amateur display, unjudged.

Mrs. Malcolm Thoburn of our club took all the top honors of the show, winning the purple National Award Ribbon for the best collection of three different, named varieties; The Queen of the Show ribbon for her "Navy Bouquet" and the Sweepstakes Award for the most blue ribbons. For this she was awarded a years membership to the National Society.

Plants were sold by commercial growers from very attractive booths arranged by each grower. Several booths sold material pertaining to violets, and a few displayed materials used in the raising and care of them.

Mrs. E. Coniber, Batavia, N. Y., Mrs. Howard Morris, Drexel Hill, Pa., and Miss Maude Mote of

Newark, Dela., graciously and competently judged the club sections.

Club members served as the judges in the open and invitation classes. They were Mrs. Leonard Ferry, Mrs. J. R. Howell, Mrs. John Nehring, Mrs. Edgar Harris, Mrs. Clarence Croll and Mrs. G. R. Smith.

The African Violet Society of Philadelphia had a very lovely display using a woodland theme. They were awarded the Blue ribbon for their entry which was artfully originated and beautifully executed.

Mrs. John G. Skelton was the general chairman, ably assisted by Mrs. Clarence Croll, Mrs. Edgar Harris, Mrs. Malcolm Thoburn, Miss Belva Pettingill, Mrs. Elwood Fritz and Mrs. E. Maginnis.

Mrs. Jessie Lewis of Salem, N. J. won the outstanding award in the non-member class.

A feature of our show this year was commercial exhibits. John Gent displayed "Pink Cheer." Frank Tinari showed "Pink Lustre." Fischer Flowers had an outstanding arrangement of various plants in a large strawberry jar. A lovely collection of plants was shown by Edgar Harris. Behnke Nurseries and J. A. Peterson & Son both displayed new varieties that were very interesting.

An educational table showing soil mixtures, suckered plants, seed pods, and growing conditions was an additional attraction. Hostesses were on hand to answer questions and give information concerning joining both our local club and our National Society.



# Bigger and Better Blossoms

SUCCESS WITH ONLY ONE YEAR  
OF GROWING EXPERIENCE



Mrs. Brown

Although the hobby of growing African violets is a relatively new one for Laura Brown -- she began growing them over a year and a half ago -- her collection of a thousand plants in 150 varieties would be the envy of many an earnest long time enthusiast.

Her plants are doing their best to crowd her out of her present seven room home, but she says she would move to larger quarters rather than sacrifice a single plant. The outstanding feature of her plants which amaze even the more experienced growers is the enormous size of the blossoms. Some plants have blossoms that cannot be covered by a silver dollar.

Her main "violet room" is on the east side of her house, although plants are scattered through-

out her home, and it is her theory that "any exposure will do." Nor does Mrs. Brown coddle her tenderest leaf cuttings. She plants them in either soil, sand or water. Watering of her plants is determined by the temperature of the rooms and the size of the pots; she waters some plants every day, and plants in larger pots three times a week. Mrs. Brown has also had much success with plants grown entirely in water. But her pride and joy is her own new plant which she herself propagated and has named Laura's Lilac.

While this interest in growing violets is a new one for Mrs. Brown, her enthusiasm should add much to the culture and development of bigger and better plants in her Saintpaulia collection.

## A VIOLET GIFT

I'm a fragile teen-age Violet  
Needing mother-love and care;  
A warm home flaunting sunlight;  
Water, food and clean fresh air.  
Then I'll try my best to blossom  
Into such a pretty sight  
That your heart will be a-flutter  
With the vibrance of delight  
At my beauty. You'll be happy --  
Happy that you gave me room  
When you read . . . "Appreciation  
For you kindness" . . . in my bloom.

Grace M. Hartley

## THE MIRACLE PLANT

One day when I was feeling blue  
And filled with some regret,  
A friend stopped by and left a plant—  
A little violet.  
It filled my heart with so much joy,  
I had only room for love,  
And then the sweet thought came to me,  
God, directs us from above

Margaret R. Kepper



# "MUST WE GUESS?"

Frances and Robert Nicholson, D. C.

Why can some people grow better African violets than others? It could be the care and exposure. But, supposing that these factors were the same; why should violets grow better for some people than for others?

The only logical answer could be that a better soil mixture, plus a more balanced diet is being used.

Now, what is a proper soil mixture? Here we get into a very controversial subject. Talk to any African violet grower, and you will be informed that he or she has the best soil mixture in existence. Maybe they have, but what makes it better than any other mixture? The reason is not obvious.

One point of agreement can be established regarding the texture of any soil mixture used in the growing of African violets. It must be such that moisture can be readily absorbed, but not retained to the extent that the soil will be continually wet and soggy.

The June 1952 issue of the African Violet Magazine, in the article by Mr. H. G. Harvey, listed fifteen different African violet growers. Each of them seems to have developed their own soil mixture over a period of years. Thus none of them could be called newcomers to African violet growing.

Each soil mixture was different, and yet they were all successful. It would seem then, that each mixture had the proper qualities for moisture control. But that does not fully answer the question. The soil part of each mixture must have been a secondary consideration. What, then, could be the main consideration?

The answer is to be found in the chemical analysis of the added ingredients in chemical form.

How can such an analysis be made? The answer is very simple. It can be done by **TESTING YOUR SOIL**.

For about five dollars, you can purchase a soil testing kit from your garden supply man. He will recommend one. (We hasten to add that we are not soil test kit salesmen. We have, by experience, been sold on them.)

First we must establish what to test for. In other words, what chemical balance will give the plants what they need for proper growth.

Mr. Harvey, in his article, states "practically no African violet soil has enough phosphorus to supply the plants' needs." Practically every commercial fertilizer, both in powder or liquid form, contains a high percentage of phosphorus, so that it seems fairly safe to say that a high level of phosphorus in the soil is desirable.

We then establish as the Number One Requirement, **HIGH PHOSPHORUS LEVEL**.

To establish the second requirement, we refer to the December 1951 issue of the African Violet Magazine, and turn to the article "Results of the Research Work on Saintpaulias at the Ohio State University," by Richard F. Stinson, and turn to page 28.

"Table 8 indicates that the greatest flower production was obtained when low levels of nitrogen were maintained."

Since these tests were handled by an expert, under a grant from the African Violet Society, it seems reasonable to accept his findings without argument. So, we get the Number Two Requirement, namely, **A LOW NITROGEN LEVEL**.

For the third requirement, we again refer to the same article, Table 8 -- page 29. "Results with the various levels of potash indicate that the plants grow equally well at all potash levels."

But it is a recognized fact that too much potash can be toxic, and to play it safe, the best bet is moderation. For the Number Three Requirement, then, let us agree on a **MEDIUM POTASH LEVEL**.

Finally, the pH level must be regarded as an important factor, so we refer to the findings on the same series of tests, Table 11 -- page 30. "These results indicate that the Saintpaulia probably grows best at or near neutral in the pH scale." This finding is confirmed by Mr. Howard Hanchey, in the June 1952 issue of the African Violet Magazine. Thus, we get the Number Four Requirement, **pH 6.5 to pH 7**.

These findings give us the following requirements to test for:

- (1) **HIGH PHOSPHORUS LEVEL**
- (2) **LOW NITROGEN LEVEL**

Cont. on Page 61



# *Clever Ceremony at Muscle Shoals*

Because of the interesting manner in which the 1952 officers of the Muscle Shoals African Violet Society were installed a report of this meeting is hereby given. The new officers were addressed by the presiding officer as follows:

## **TREASURER:**

To you Mrs. D. T. Wilcoxsin, as treasurer of this society I give a wallet. May its pouches grow full this new year. As you guard it and keep it, may it be the source of much joy and inspiration by providing adequate pelf by which our worldly desires are gratified. You have been chosen by this group because you possess the excellent graces of neatness and orderliness. By orderliness you will keep the bookkeeping of this society ready for inspection at anytime -- recording accurately the disbursements and in gatherings with meticulous care and may the great faith which has been placed in you by your sisters ever be worthy of this great trust. This purse has transparent sides as you may see -- that is to help you see at all times the object of this great trust. May its golden clasp be easy to open to worthy unselfish causes and may it weld together in case of unjustified expenditures. Your jurisdiction will decide which cause is worthy as it is brought to your notice and blessings will fall on your prudent decisions.

## **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:**

To you Mrs. Roy Taylor, as corresponding secretary, I give this pretty pencil. It is not an ordinary pencil but one with a peculiar point. This pencil is endowed with mythical qualities. Within its case is sheathed promptness which you will use when called upon to give to the waiting world -- information in whatsoever phase it shall be requested. Within its case is sheathed cordial words of welcome to new members -- kind words of solace to the departing member when you shall be instructed to use them. Within the case of this pencil is sheathed also courteous correspondence which you will employ at all times when representing this society which has chosen you because of your peculiar capacity for doing your work well. Within your nimble fingers lies the ability of wresting from this mythical pencil its secrets. Of designing the proper procedure for particular occasions which may arise. Keep it always at hand and may its point never become dull from idleness nor its treasures undiscovered.

## **HISTORIAN:**

Mrs. L. L. Tatum as historian of the Muscle Shoals African Violet Society of the Tri-Cities, I present this pair of tiny scissors. Solid gold are they and with especially sharpened edges for cutting with the precision which will serve you well in your searching and gathering items of interest -- both fact and fiction. This you will preserve carefully for the present and future membership,

the pictorial history of this society. Make this history as well you can pleasing to the eye. Let it produce sustaining food for the mind and aesthetic beauty for the soul. These golden scissors in your skillful hands will serve as a key which will unlock for you myriads of treasures -- use them carefully and freely that those who look to you with joyous anticipation may say with unexcelled fervor and pride "How fortunate are we that she was our choice."

## **RECORDING SECRETARY:**

To you Mrs. J. C. Chambers, our recording secretary for the new year, I give a tiny book, blank it is but handsomely bound. This book has only been started and in your talented fingers lies the art of its completion into a beautiful volume with a heart of treasure, gleaned with care from the meetings, month by month. The proceedings of these meetings will fall into your hands, one by one as nuggets of gold and precious stones. Gather and garner them carefully that they may be preserved to delight the eyes and hearts of those who come after you for many years.

## **VICE PRESIDENT:**

To you Mrs. H. G. McCullough, the incoming vice-president for the new year, I present these spectacles. Wear them nobly and with dignity, for to you they are symbolic of the confidence the group has placed in your ability to support and sustain the president of this society. In her absence or at her discretion, you will preside in her stead, fulfilling the duties of her office as well becomes one who has been chosen by the group for such an important position. These glasses are magic ones for when looking through them you will be able to see only the fine qualities of your sister members. You will see first of all, much and varied talent. You will see the excellent graces of love, loyalty and devotion to the group and to each other. You will see constance and willingness for service. You will see promptness to duties. You will see helpfulness and the wholesome joy that comes from sharing with others and working together. You will see kindness and happiness to hold and to share, and over all will be veiled a soft rosy glow. Valuable spectacles are these indeed, wear them constantly.

## **PRESIDENT:**

To you Mrs. Hester our incoming president for the ensuing year, 1951-1952, I present this gavel as a symbol of the authority which is vested in you by virtue of this office. Use it well and wisely so that by your direction and under your capable leadership we may continue to be an energetic, alert and inspiring group of members well worthy of our name, the "Muscle Shoals African Violet Society of the Tri-Cities."





Left to right, America and My Best Girl from Mrs. Poisal's collection of plants.

## BRIEF GUIDANCE FROM CALIFORNIA

Juanita Poisal, Calif.

Over fifteen years ago my hobby started with one tiny plant that I watched grow into a perfect rosette which later was covered with pale blue flowers. I was so fascinated with this plant that I decided to have more. At present I have close to 300 plants and seedlings altogether.

I start leaves in shallow plastic dishes filled with vermiculite and a little sand that has been sterilized. When the tiny plants are strong enough I repot in small pots of potting soil, consisting of leaf mold, coarse sand, and garden loam. This is baked in the oven an hour at 250 degrees. This mixture is stirred and aerated before using.

Plants and plantlets should never be over-watered or allowed to dry out too much but should be slightly moist with good drainage. I find that red and double varieties require the most water. I prefer north exposure for pink and red varieties, and east for other colors.

I am especially fond of Mr. Ulery's new hybrids. I don't believe my collection would be complete without Ulery's Red Girl, Dbl. Orchid Girl, Blue Wonder, Rose, Garnet King, Blue Heiress and so forth and so on -- And of course last but not least those two lovely whites, Snow Prince and Snow Girl.

## SPECIAL AWARD FOR CROSS GENUS HYBRIDS

The Research Committee announces that through the generosity of Mr. H. G. Harvey, they are offering a cash award of twenty five dollars for the best cross genus hybrid plant exhibited at the Nashville Convention. By cross genus hybrid, they mean a plant grown from a seed, one parent of which is a Saintpaulia, and the other parent is of some other genus. Examples of such genera are Gloxinia, Achimenes, Streptocarpus, and so on. It is anticipated that the non-Saintpaulia parent will be of the Gesneria family, although no limitation is set in this regard. Vegetative reproductions from such a hybrid are eligible for this award.

The plant will be judged on its future cross hybridization potentialities and not on its individual beauty. Proof of cross genus hybridization satisfactory to the Research Committee will be required. Both members and non-members of the Society may enter plants in this competition.

Sterility of the hybrid is no bar in making this award, although a fertile hybrid will be considered better than a sterile one. A cross with a genus in which yellow colored flowers occur will be considered better than one with a genus in which they do not occur.

If there are no worthy entries for this award at Nashville, it will be continued as an award at the next Convention.

### COMMERCIAL SALES EXHIBITS AT NASHVILLE

Please contact Mrs. John A. Landaker, 2339 Grigg Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio if you would like sales space in the Commercial Sales Room at the coming Nashville Convention.



1953  
CONVENTION

*VIOLETS --*



*on our*

*LAPEL*

The African Violet  
Society of America  
Convention will be  
held at the  
Hotel Hermitage  
Nashville, Tenn.

April 30,

May 1 and 2

COME AND BRING PLANTS  
FOR THE EXHIBIT

Now we can wear our violets on our lapel to let our African violet friends know that we, too, belong to the great National Organization known as the African Violet Society of America, Inc. For, you see, we now have an official violet pin. -- our original Blue enameled violet encircled with a sterling silver band with the initials A. V. S. of A.

A pin committee, appointed by Mrs. Arthur Radtke, comprised of E. Pearle Turner, chairman, Mrs. Walter Schmittel, Mrs. Paul Folk, and Mrs. T. A. O'Neil, worked through the Summit Jewelers of Akron, Ohio, with a manufacturer in Chicago, trying to get the proper color and shape of our African violet before an expensive dye was made. After much correspondence and drawings being sent back and forth, the manufacturer finally sent us four designs, which were submitted to the Executive Board of our National Society. The design they chose was the one that had been drawn by Mrs. Paul Folk, our ardent violet lover and a national member.

The Pin, or Lapel Button for men, can be had in sterling silver and blue enamel for \$3.50, or in 14 carat gold and blue enamel for \$12.50, including state and federal tax, plus packing and shipping charges.

In ordering from the chairman, E. Pearle Turner, 828 Kenmore Boulevard, Akron, Ohio, please print your name and address. This pin is for National members only. Profit from the sale of these pins are the jewelers, only.

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

BINDERS

2 for \$5.50 Ppd. Orders for 1 not accepted.

Editor





This plant liked the nitche in the greenhouse wall it was growing in —

## At Tinari Floral Gardens . . . .

Can you imagine husky violets growing in your greenhouse wall? It's pretty hard to believe, after all the care we ordinarily give our African violets, but its true! To the constant surprise and delight to all, we have several plants that apparently like the little niches in the concrete foundation of our greenhouse.

It all began when the children took a small plant, wrapped it in a little sphagnum moss, and stuck it in a little depression in the cement. Then the little plant was almost forgotten, and certainly no special effort was made to keep it growing there. When the greenhouse walls were watered and other plants sprayed, our hardy wall specimen apparently got enough of the liquid fertilizer and moisture sprayed on the foliage for their necessary feeding. Our plant does seem to like it there!

And after all, this closely resembles the plants natural habitat, for, if you remember, African violets were first found growing in dense forests, from crags and crevices in the mountains. So, one might say that our plants are simply "going back to nature."

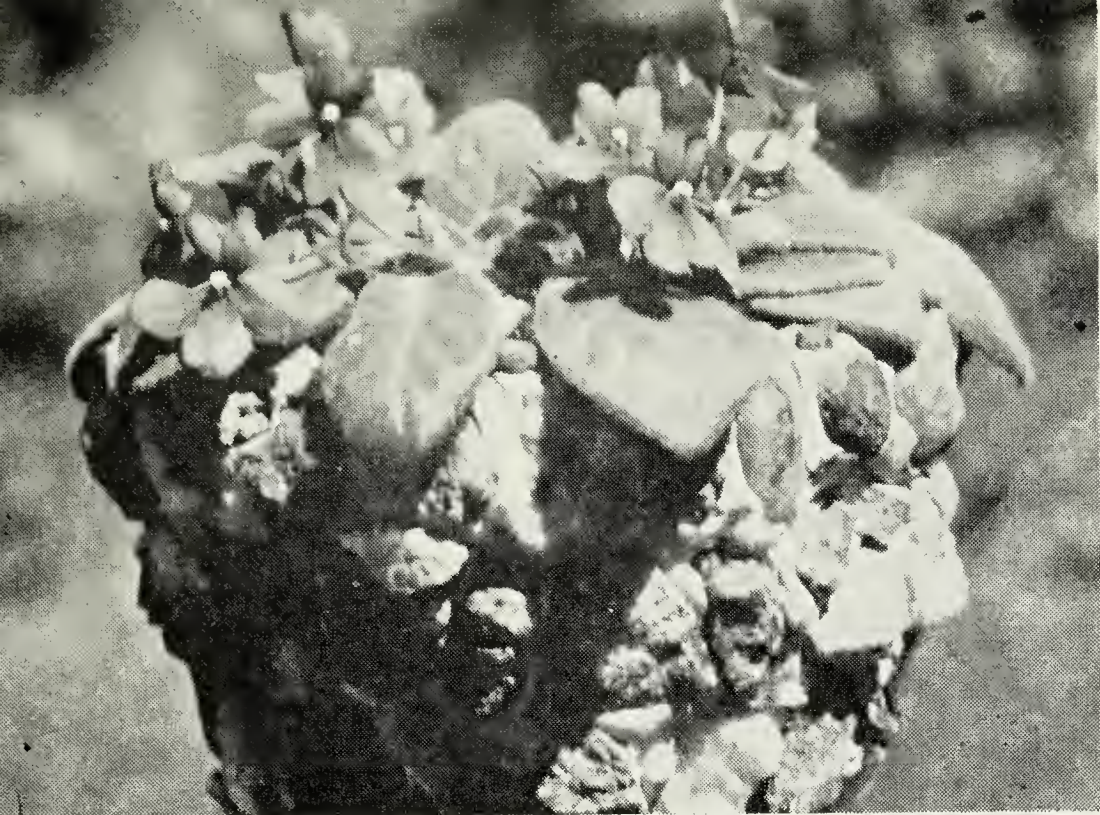
### YOUR NEW TREASURER

**MYRTLE RADTKE**

P. O. Box 116, Madisonville Station  
Cincinnati 27, Ohio

Please make all checks and money orders payable to African Violet Society of America.





The stone container filled with plants.

## "MEMORY JARDINIÈRE"

Marie Keeney, Penna.

Containers can seem dull and ordinary at times, except for some of the more expensive kinds, of course. Now I think a pretty plant like one of my violets deserves a pretty container, so along with my hobby of growing violets, I now have a "side" hobby of collecting attractive pots, etc., in which to house my plants.

These containers have become sort of a "memory collection," and especially one of my favorites which I made from stones. A few years ago I went on a tour of the West, and at many places of interest I would pick up a pebble or small stone by which to remember the place. I got pebbles from the top of Pike's Peak, The Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, the Santa Fe Indian Reservation, and many of the other places we visited. Of course other members of our party thought it silly of me to be carrying stones from one place to another, and I took a good bit of good-natured kidding about it. But when I got home I made a jardiniere from the pebbles, and did they wish for one too!

And, oh the things it recalls to mind. I remember that while driving through the park my hat blew off. In rescuing the hat the conductor brought back a piece of obsidium, which is quite a rare black stone and looks lovely in my pot. When I stopped on top of Pike's Peak for a stone, I stooped over, but could not get up. The force of gravitation at that altitude held me down. I wanted a nice hot stone from "Old Faithful" in Yellowstone -- result, burned fingers. But it was worth it all, for the combination of all those wonderful colors helps to show off my violets to their best advantage.

In making the pot, I took an ordinary clay pot, turned it upside down, covered it with putty, then placed my stones in the putty and let it harden. Presto! I have a pretty pot for my pretty plants, and many precious memories too.

## LOST MEMBERS

Please help us find the following members -- their mail is returned from the addresses listed below.

Miss Elizabeth Johnson  
Route 2  
Horse Cave, Ky.  
Mrs. John Tomlinson  
Route 1  
Elizabethtown, Ind.  
Miss Jinny Klinzing  
431 Colfax Street  
Sharpsburg, Penna.  
Mrs. Christian A. Lyles  
1519 May Street  
Fort Worth 4, Texas  
Mrs. Ivan Pope  
General Delivery  
Casper, Wyo.  
Mrs. Rodney Johnson  
Chaumont Street  
Depauville, N. Y.

## FILM LIBRARY

Please be sure and get a confirmation of your reservation. We may not have received your request.

## 1953 HANDBOOK

WILL BE MAILED OUT IN MARCH





## QUESTION BOX

The Question Box

Editor is —

LOIS MINEHAN

29 Circuit Drive

Binghamton, N. Y.

This is an entirely new experience for me -- editing a column. I find as I receive your letters that I am going to need a lot of help from many different sources. If any of you have answers to some of these questions please be sure and drop me a line. Probably all of us have different ideas and this is a good place to air them. To start with I have had a suggestion from Mrs. R. A. Arnold of Nashville, Tennessee. She suggests that the answers be put directly under the questions. I, too think that this will be easier to read, especially if the column is continued on the back pages. If you don't find an answer you will know that I am looking for help from the rest of you.

Q: I would like much information on the Gesneriad family. Where can I get this?

Is *Isoloma Hirsuta*, mentioned in the September African Violet Magazine a *Gesneria*? Are *Achimenes* *Gesneria*? Are *Gloxinias* *Gesneria*? Where can *Isoloma Hirsuta* be purchased?

Rosa Mae Skene, Dundee, Oregon

A: *Episcia*, *Gloxinias* and *Achimenes* are of the *Gesneria* family.

Q: I am writing to ask a question but not about African violets. I have almost a hundred plants. Most of them different named varieties. What I would like to know is the address of the magazine about *Gloxinias*.

Mrs. Wm. L. Tift, Elbert, Colo.

A: The *Gloxinian*, Editor Elvin McDonald, Gray, Oklahoma.

Q: Have tried using a rooting product containing hormone which is supposed to speed up the growth of roots on cuttings. I have followed the instruction as close as possible but I have no success. I dip the cuttings in the powder, shake off the excess and place the dipped cuttings in Vermiculite (moistened). After a day or two the leaves begin to droop and the ends of the stems turn brown and soggy. I believe this is something like rot. I have tried various uses trying to get a success, but they always rot at the stems. Will you please tell me what I am doing wrong?

Stanley Kinese, Cleveland, Ohio

A: I would suggest that you take leaves from nearer the center of the plant as it sounds as though you might be using the old bottom row leaves and these never seem to be as strong and productive as younger leaves.

Q: I am having trouble with my Redland, Red Head and Lacy Girl. The blooms on these plants are small and seem to fall off before they are fully opened. I have about 100 plants and about 25 varieties and treat them all the same. Do these plants need different care or more feeding than other varieties?

Mrs. A. Augeri, Ramsey, N. J.

A: I would suggest taking these three plants out of their pots and examine their roots to see if there is a healthy root system . . . I also would suggest examination of leaves for thrip.

Q: How do you pollinate onto doubles?

Donna Jean Roll, Clackamas, Oregon

A: Read page 14, September 1952 African Violet Magazine. This is a report by Florence Foltz and illustrated by Montague Free entitled "Speaking of Operations." Doubles and singles are both pollinated in the same manner. However many of the doubles do not respond to pollination as easily as singles as the anthers are often missing and the pistil seems to be imperfectly developed. Hope to hear from others on this —

Q: I am new at growing African violets but think I've been rather successful so far. Have a nice collection of about 50 different varieties. All are young, several have not bloomed yet. This summer I bought a Tube Craft Floral Cart and after a long delay the fluorescent lights were finally installed and October 1st I put my plants in the trays. Two plants of Azure Beauty were already blooming, lovely and double, as they should be. Today, 18 days later, I have removed them from the fluorescent lights and put them in an east window. Why? Because they are full of single blooms -- white with the blue blotch in the center. Two other plants of Double Neptune are blooming nicely, double, the way they should. Have you any idea why the Azure Beauties "acted up" in such a manner?

Mrs. Edith Austin, Godfrey, Ill.

A: I'm sure that the fluorescent lights had nothing to do with this change from a double to a single. These little hybrids do some strange things some times. (Note) Have heard from Mrs. Austin that now that these two plants are in the east window the new blooms are single with a little tuft of petals in the center . . .

Cont. on Page 58





# Calling all MEN

Phil Libby, 1437 So. Wisconsin Ave., Racine Wisc.

WOW! Guess we started something when this column went to press. In addition to all the regular mail received at home, letters from MEN from east to west coasts came streaming in, voicing their appreciation of a column devoted to the men who raise African violets. Keep the mail coming boys!

On a recent trip through upper Wisconsin, I stopped at the homes of all the men on the roster, and believe me, I was surprised at the activity and the use of fluorescent lights. At Wausau, Harvey J. Ridge, showed me a basement and a large side porch filled with large and small plants. He was at the time building an aluminum stand, with fluorescents that should be a good one. He has since sent me a photo of the finished stand, filled with plants and it looks excellent. I understand he has placed them on the market now. At Beaver Dam, Kurt Regling, tells me he will have to get a bigger place if he continues to raise violets, the entire house, in every conceivable place, everywhere were plants in blossom. In the basement his benches, with fluorescents were flourishing. Of course, several of the men I did not find home. Chester Bickle at Slinger, has given up raising violets for the time being and is devoting his time to dogs. I am sorry if I missed anyone on the trip north, and of course there will be many in the western part of the state I could not see on this trip, but if they will write me, when I get into their neighborhoods, I will stop and visit with them for sure.

Getting down to Atlantic City, New Jersey, I had the pleasure of meeting with Charles Fischer, and he took me out to his famous greenhouses at Linwood, and believe you me, I saw plenty. They estimate they have 75,000 violets and it was a sight to behold. I was shown many new plants, some that they will bring forth for the next convention. Mr. Fischer has not given me permission to tell you of the developments of his new plants, but as soon as he does, I'll tell you more about them.

At Galesburg, Illinois, I visited Carl P. Nelson, who has some 300 seedlings coming up. He is using fluorescent, and has built some nice violet racks.

In my mail there were letters from A. F. Kirsling, 1215 Oneida Street, Appleton, Wisconsin; Donald Rekmeyer of 61 Livingston Avenue, Albany, New York; and Edward Soukup, 12605 Benham Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, who want to exchange leaves so I'd suggest you get in touch with each other. Everett E. Hammond, P. O. Box 164, Irvington (Alameda County) California, is interested in a round robin, who else?

John J. Byk, of 44 Bannard Street, Freehold, New Jersey writes of his problem, quote -- "My problems are many, but maybe some one can help me out. I have built a sun porch this last summer, and when completed moved my violets to it. This porch has all windows to the south. The northwest and east windows are 4 x 4 feet. It is heated by a space heater, run by kerosene. It is 80 in the day time and 70 at night. The entrance to the porch opens to the outside, which may supply too much fresh air. I have 20 large plants and 15 small plants. They are placed on shelves on the north west wall where there is no window. They get a little morning sun. The rest of the day just light which may be enough. I supply fluorescent daylight at night up to 10 P. M. I try to keep the humidity at 35 to 40% and I feed once a week with Plant Marvel. I would like assistance with culture -- suggestions would prove helpful. My main problem is -- My leaves get brown on the underside and wilt. Then I have to cut them off. The few plants that bloom have only two or three flowers and then none for weeks." Unquote. Can someone come up with the answer for Mr. Byk?

Lee Malone out at 830 South Hastings Avenue, Hastings, Nebraska, has a problem too, -- I have trouble with Double Neptune plants. The plants always look healthy until after a good first blooming period. Then they simply wilt and die. Leaves propagated before this wilting period grow healthy plants. Leaves taken when first sign of wilt, will root, but they continue to wilt and die. Is this the nature of the brute, as the saying goes? It seems he has asked the local ladies and they have the same trouble, will one of you fellows come up with the answer?

Cont. on Page 64



# REGISTRATION REPORT . . . .

Neil C. Miller

## PART I

### PLANT AND REGISTRANT

The following applications have been received during the period October 1, 1952 to December 8, 1952. No objections to registration are apparent.

**Azure Beauty 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Baby Helen 11-2-52**

The Select Violet House  
2023 Belmont Avenue  
Youngstown, Ohio

**Blue Danube 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Blue Heiress 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Blue Tiara 10-2-52**

Mary Mayer  
1014 Forest Hills Avenue  
Calumet City, Illinois

**Bright Morning 9-30-52**

Mrs. Irvin R. Furnish  
Florence, Indiana

"A cross of Pink Girl and Red Head. Makes a medium large plant; has dark green, pointed crenate leaf. Leaves not uniform, has odd shape similar to Pink Girl. The leaf has a rayed or splashed white spot which often reaches half way up the leaf. Each scallop has a tiny white spot at its base. Bloom is orchid, with tips of top petals darker, often both top and side petals have darker tips, depending on location. A very prolific bloomer."

**Bronze Bicolor 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Bronze Girl 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Carmen 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Double Jubilee 11-2-52**

The Select Violet House  
2023 Belmont Avenue  
Youngstown, Ohio

**Double Neptune 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Double Orchid Girl 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Dupont Blue Delight 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Fireman's Girl 11-2-52**

The Select Violet House  
2023 Belmont Avenue  
Youngstown, Ohio

**Floyd Johnson 10-18-52**

The Select Violet House  
2023 Belmont Avenue  
Youngstown, Ohio

**Fringed Double White 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Glamour Boy 11-2-52**

The Select Violet House  
2023 Belmont Avenue  
Youngstown, Ohio

**Gorgeous Blue Wonder 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Gypsy Girl 11-2-52**

The Select Violet House  
2023 Belmont Avenue  
Youngstown, Ohio

**Helen Montgomery 11-28-52**

Mrs. L. H. Rose  
559 Evanston  
Kansas City, Missouri

"This is a seedling grown from seed, a cross of "girl" and DuPont. It is a stately plant, never grows flat, always erect. Has heavy girl foliage, large leaves, very bronzy black effect. Very shiny and feels like velvet scalloped ruffled edges. The two toned bloom among the foliage is very pretty. It has propagated true from the first leaf. I have had it about two years and all plants are the same. It resembles no other plant I have ever seen."

**Hit or Miss 11-2-52**

R. G. Baxter Greenhouse  
2023 Belmont Avenue  
Youngstown, Ohio

**Indian Princess 10-27-52**

Mrs. R. L. Welton  
Meriden, Kansas

"This is the most outstanding plant of all the seedlings raised from Admiral -- Pink Girl cross, very sturdy and fast growing. Flat to droopy growth, foliage very irregular, similar to Pink Girl, but with a dark glossy sheen as is Admiral. Blossom is RV, upper; and, RV2, lower, with veins a shade darker, making a striped effect."

**Innocence 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio



**Lavender Beauty 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Lindy Bell 9-29-52**

Mrs. Dorothy Lindroth  
5313 Garden Plain Avenue  
Rockford, Illinois

"Lindy Bell bought as a young plant, in March 1950, by a friend, at a greenhouse, was labeled "Blue Bird." The medium sized purple blossoms are borne in clusters, usually seven in number and never contain a pollen sac. The leaves of this flat growing plant are dull, dark green, slightly quilted, notched, ruffled and pointed; if given good light are medium rose on the bottom side. The plant always propagates true."

**Little Geneva Princess 11-2-52**

The Select Violet House  
2023 Belmont Avenue  
Youngstown, Ohio

**Little Sweetheart 11-2-52**

The Select Violet House  
2023 Belmont Avenue  
Youngstown, Ohio

**Mary Lee 11-28-52**

Mrs. L. H. Rose  
559 Evanston  
Kansas City, Missouri

"This is a seedling from a general cross of girls. A very pretty flat growing plant, foliage has large yellow spot with shadings out into leaf of red to maroon and dark, light veining shows on top of light green on the bronzy green foliage. The under side is light green veined. Color does not go underneath but when held up to light shows through and is a beautiful sight. The bloom is rose the same shade of Rose Marie. Every leaf propagates true."

**Mt. Hood 10-23-52**

Mrs. Carolyn K. Rector  
P. O. Box 94  
San Pedro, California

"Rather flat growth, medium light green leaves, open center. Prolific bloomer. Flowers white with narrow orchid edging and orchid eye, average 10 to a cluster."

**Orchid Sunset 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Orchid Velvet 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Overlay 11-2-52**

The Select Violet House  
2023 Belmont Avenue  
Youngstown, Ohio

**Painted Girl 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Pink Cheer Supreme 11-10-52**

Henry Ten Hagen  
173 W. Buffalo Street  
Warsaw, New York

"Typical "Supreme" type of growth. Thick heavy leaves and somewhat slow in growth. However, the huge dark pink blossom makes it an outstanding variety. The color of the blossom is even deeper than that of Pink Cheer."

**Pink Eyed Jenny Girl 11-2-52**

The Select Violet House  
2023 Belmont Avenue  
Youngstown, Ohio

**Pink Overlay 11-2-52**

The Select Violet House  
2023 Belmont Avenue  
Youngstown, Ohio

**Pink Sheen 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Purity 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Purple Girl 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Pink Delight 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Purple Dawn 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Queen Betty 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Red King 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Red Lady 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Red Velvet 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Rose Double 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Royal Girl 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Royal Scot 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Ruffled Queen 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Sailor Girl 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Sailors Delight 10-9-52**

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

**Show Pink 11-7-52**

Henry Ten Hagen



173 W. Buffalo Street  
Warsaw, New York

"A "DuPont type" produced by treating Pink Cheer with colchicine. The flowers are larger and are deeper than Pink Cheer in color. The plant is a very good bloomer, and has a very symmetrical flat growth and its growth is quite rapid."

Silver Moon 10-23-52

Mrs. Carolyn K. Rector  
P. O. Box 94  
San Pedro, California

"Rather flat growth, but not as flat as Neptune, very symmetrical. Vigorous growth, always in bloom. Medium light green leaf, smooth and glossy, rather heavy texture, very few side shoots. Flower of medium size, pure white, 4 to 6 in a cluster opens flat, stays on well."

Snow Flake 11-28-52

Mrs. L. H. Rose  
559 Evanston  
Kansas City 22, Missouri

"Snow flake is one of the best whites we know of today. It is a very showy plant with stately, drooping, flowing foliage which never hugs the pot yet you can't see the pot: in other words, arches out. Shiny slightly quilted foliage of medium green. Flower 2 inches across, round and sparkling white, glistens like snow in the sun. A very profuse bloomer. The whitest white we have to date. All leaf propagations are true."

Snow Girl 10-9-52

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

Snow Prince 10-9-52

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

Summer Skies 11-2-52

The Select Violet House  
2023 Belmont Avenue  
Youngstown, Ohio

Sunrise 10-9-52

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

Twilight 10-9-52

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

Violet Beauty 10-9-52

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

Velvet Girl 10-9-52

Ulery's Greenhouses  
1325 Maiden Lane  
Springfield, Ohio

It will be noted that descriptions are not furnished for a number of these plants. Most of them have been standard varieties of commerce for a long time and are well known.

## PART II

The following Name Reservations have been made during this period.

Albino Girl  
Appealing  
Blue Ohio  
Desirous  
Easter Delight  
Elizabeth, The Queen  
Etude  
Evening Sunset  
Fashion  
Frosty Frostie

Martyn's Mauve Girl  
Miss Alabama  
Mottled Girl  
\*Ohio  
Ola Faye's Olies  
Pink Wonder  
Red Princess  
Ruffled Beauty  
\*Select  
\*Selectee  
\*Show

\*Illini  
Kehl's Geneva Girl  
Kehl's Red Geneva Girl  
\*Lindy  
Marbled Amethyst  
Mardi Lavender Pink Cluster  
\*Designates Series Reservation

Snow Cup  
\*Topsy  
Variegated Surprise  
Vogue  
Zebra

## PART III

### CORRECTION

An Application for Registration on SWEET-HEART was received, and published in the Registration Report for June, 1951. This card became misplaced in the File and another application for SWEETHEART was accepted and published in the Report for December 1952. It is, of course, evident that the second application can not be allowed to stand. The applicant has been notified that a new name will have to be selected.

## PART IV

### LIMIT ON NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS

In the future, not more than ten Applications for Registration will be accepted from any one person during any one registration period.

This rule will not apply in the case of commercial growers who decide to register their earlier plants and submit copies of catalogs or price lists in which the plants were listed.

## PART V

In Part II of the Registration Report for September 1950 twenty-four plants were listed as "not yet accepted by this Committee, and that further consideration of each one of them will be continued to a definite conclusion." It has not been possible to move as rapidly as could have been desired in this matter.

The claims for these plants are currently being re-examined. It is felt that five of these should now be published as accepted Applications for Registration, so that protests, if there be any, can be made. These plants are as follows:

Mardi Bi Color 4-26-50

Mrs. Milton Eckhardt  
7701 Seven Mile Lane  
Baltimore 8, Maryland

Mardi Purple 4-26-50

Mrs. Milton Eckhardt  
7701 Seven Mile Lane  
Baltimore 8, Maryland

Mardi Fuchsia 4-26-50

Mrs. Milton Eckhardt  
7701 Seven Mile Lane  
Baltimore 8, Maryland

Pacific Prince 6-12-50

Mrs. Carolyn K. Rector  
486 O'Farrell Street  
San Pedro, California

Western Girl 6-12-50

Mrs. Carolyn K. Rector  
486 O'Farrell Street  
San Pedro, California

## PART VI

Adverse comment, amounting in some cases to protest, have been received during this period on:

HOLLY  
PINK FANTASY  
RED RAVE



## HOBBY COTTAGE

### THE FINEST IN REGISTERED SEEDLINGS

HAWAIIAN SKIES      RED WING  
HAWAIIAN SUNSET      DOUBLE DARLING  
BLUE MORNING GLORY

Many others outstanding in coloring and size of flowers.

Also the new in Named Varieties  
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## SERIES AND SINGLE NAME RESERVATION

It has been the practice not to allow an existing plant name to be incorporated in a Series simply by placing the Series name in front of it. Some instances of this nature may have occurred before the Master File attained any degree of completeness and before the policy became clearly formulated, but all recent requests for Name Reservations of this type have been denied. For instance, the name Rosy Dawn exists in the File, so a request for Name Reservation of So-and-So Rosy Dawn would be refused.

This kind of check of the File can be easily done, but the reverse type of check can not be so readily made. As an example of this; The name Rochelle Linda Lou has been reserved, so neither Linda Lou nor So-and-So Linda Lou should properly be reserved for anybody else; but the File would not have a card Linda Lou, and it is impossible to check each requested name against all the Series cards, so either Linda Lou or So-and-So Linda Lou might be issued.

If cases of this kind do occur (as they inevitably will) the person making the original reservation should immediately call the fact to the attention of the Registration Committee.

*Roigina*

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

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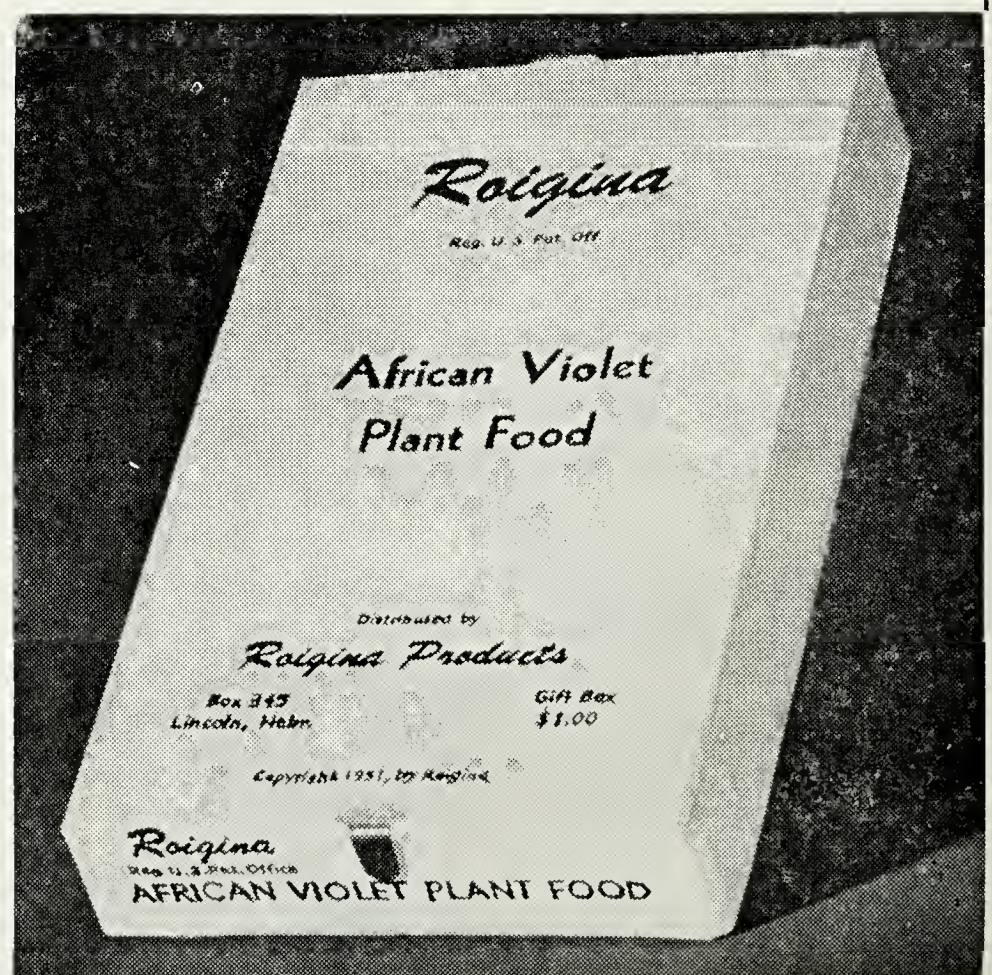
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# HISTORY OF OAK RIDGE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Inez Bradford, Tenn.

In the fall of 1944 Alma Wright and Kitty Richards of Knoxville came to Oak Ridge to present a program for the Home and Garden Section of the newly organized Oak Ridge Woman's Club. Mrs. M. K. Walsh, who organized the Home and Garden Section, asked them to introduce African violets to Oak Ridge women. Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Richards brought twelve flowering African violet plants with them. The "unusual" varieties of white and pink -- created much excitement at the meeting. The twelve gift plants started an interest in African violets in Oak Ridge.

In the fall of 1947, Mrs. John Murray extended an invitation to -- Mrs. M. K. Walsh, Mrs. D. J. Mahegan, Mrs. Leslie Ross, Mrs. James B. Scott and Mrs. A. B. Bowman to her home to discuss the possibility of starting an African Violet Club. At this meeting it was decided to ask another person interested in African violets to join the new club. Since the meetings would be held in the homes of the members the group had a limit of twelve.



Some of the members of the Oak Ridge Society pose for picture at Violet Show.

Accordingly in September 1947, Mrs. Lester Smith, Mrs. R. G. Body, Mrs. C. E. Larson, Mrs. R. K. Browning, Mrs. St. John Davis and Mrs. R. C. Orr met with the original six to form and become the Charter Section of the Oak Ridge African Violet Society. The Society now consists of four sections; Charter, Ionantha, Amethyst and Neptune and it has recently become an Affiliated Chapter of the African Violet Society of America.

## THE NASHVILLE SHOW

**Will be our biggest and best if you bring along a plant or two to show.**

**See the awards listed in the pink section in the center of this magazine.**

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EXHIBIT  
YOUR PLANTS ARE NEEDED**

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For African Violet Lovers  
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**★ ATTRACTIVE ★**

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June 5th and 6th

Y. W. C. A.

FRI. 2:00 P. M. TO 9:00 P. M.

SAT. 10:00 A. M. TO 9:00 P. M.

BENEFIT Y. W. C. A.





**HELEN POCHUREK**

Arthur Road

Solon, Ohio

**Homing Pigeon**

**News Editor**

Note Mrs. Pochurek's new address. -- Editor

Thanks for all the cards and greetings . . . I surely do appreciate them, it makes me feel that my little effort is worthwhile.

Your Hint Hunter  
**Helen Pochurek**

I carry cleansing tissue with me when watering my African violets. A bit rolled into a point will absorb that drop of water that could fall into the crown of a plant.

Marie Raupp, Prairie Falls, Illinois

I made a step table to hold more plants at my windows. I took 3 table leaves and placed them on tomato juice cans, 2 at each end. I have room for 25 plants in each window now (Hint Hunters note) I believe these were made in 3 tiers.

Carol Baker, National City, California

A new wrinkle in sterilizing soil. Use a small bottle of Carbona (Carbon Tetrachloride) to a gallon of soil. Place in a 2 gallon container -- a potato chip can works fine. Shake thoroughly. Leave for 24 hours, tightly covered. Open then to air. Use when all odor is gone -- not before.

Helen McMahon, Macedonia, Ohio

Instead of using cheese glasses, as many people do who root leaves, I use the small glass bottles druggists use for dispensing medicine. The bottles are quite small and usually 2 or 3 inches high. I root 4 leaves in each bottle and the leaf rests on the edge of the bottle. I cleanse them well before using. I find that the green or brown bottles will root faster than the clear glass. The use of these bottles has solved the rooting problem for me as they make possible the starting of many leaves in a very small place.

Mrs. Ralph Jennings, Fort Washington, Pa.

To hold a rooted leaf in rooting medium, use a plastic label cut lengthwise and run down through the leaf, as you would use a toothpick. First writing the name of leaf on label. From 100 labels, I make 200 labels. I also use same in rooting in water as writing does not come off.

Nell Frye, Unit 47

For leaves that droop over the edge of pot -- use a 2 inch wide strip of aluminum foil, crushed together and placed around rim of pot, being careful not to break stems.

Nellie Frye, Unit 47

(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949 must be members of the National Society.)

Dear Members:

Here is your old Hint Hunter again. I sincerely hope that your violets are rewarding your loving care with garlands of bloom.

Winter has come to Ohio and the ground outside my window is covered with a soft mantel of white. Your Hint Hunter's windows are a joy to see. Violets are busting out in many colors and forms. Even though my work is never ending, each morning I get a new lift and inspiration to carry me through the day. Who knows the 'power' that our favorite flower has over us. Many have asked me, but I don't know the answer.

Many thanks for the hints you have sent to me -- many of them have already been used in earlier issues. Just keep sending them along, as I enjoy hearing from you. I need all the hints possible to make this column interesting.

Please -- if any of the Pigeon members wish to withdraw from a Pigeon or wish to join one or if a new Director is needed, please contact Iva Woods instead of "yours truly." I don't have a file here of the membership and it means that I must send your requests on to Iva -- thus losing many weeks and it also means extra work for me. Many letters come to me that should be sent to Iva. I'd like to help you out, but without Pigeon records, I just can't.





## IVA WOODS

226 High Street  
New Wilmington, Penna.

**Homing Pigeon**

**Membership Manager**

Greetings to all of you. I want to thank you for your help in bringing up to date the records of the Homing Pigeon Department. If any one desires to join a unit, please write to me. As soon as your letter of introduction is received I will place you in a unit. We have had calls for an all Canada unit, an all Pacific Northwest unit, an Eastern unit. We do have an all Kansas unit, as well as all California unit. If you have previously belonged and your unit is no longer functioning if you write, and send your introductory letter you will be assigned in a new group. We will endeavor to help with any of your problems in your group so do not hesitate to write to me. Now may I wish for all of you a good growing year for 1953.

Sincerely,  
Iva Woods

For plants with drooping leaves -- set pot in center of plastic coated colored paper plate. Mark and cut circle of correct size to slip up to just below rim of pot. Pull tightly around and fasten with a paper clip. This colorful and attractive stiff color keeps plant attractive while waiting for leaves to resume normal growth.

Lucy Lewis, Pownal, Vermont

A few hints from your Hint Hunter —

Keep seed pods dry when watering your plants -- especially those that are almost ripe. Dampness will sometimes cause a pod to deteriorate and rot. I also remove all spent bloom stems from a stem that carries a seed pod. A deteriorating stem will often cause the seed pod stem to rot, should they happen to touch.

Ring spot on African violets are pale yellow rings or markings on healthy green leaves. They are caused by a draft or cold water on the foliage. A leaf touching a cold window will also cause it.

Artificially softened water is often the reason for unsuccessful violet growing. The chemicals through which the water must run are injurious to plants. Rain water or melted snow is God's gift and can't be improved upon.

The holiday season is just past and I'd like to mention just one of the ways I used African violets. On my antique wash stand, I used a red burlap piece that I fringed all around. On this, I placed an old milk glass oblong tureen in which

I placed 3 Snow Girls with an *Episcia fulgida* at each end of bowl. All the plants faced the front and the *Episcia* was draped around the container. This was used with a low candlestick of milk glass that held 3 red candles. It made a very attractive Christmas arrangement.

Speaking of arrangements -- I always grow a few plants for that particular purpose. The trick is to grow them in the window without turning them for several months. All the blooms and foliage will be facing in one direction. It is very easy to make a handsome arrangement with them, as they show up to better advantage when grown in this fashion.

A teaspoon of baking soda in a quart of water and used to water the soil around the plants will discourage mildew on your plants.

## AFRICAN VIOLETS

### Rooted Leaves

VIGOROUS ROOTED LEAVES  
THAT GET PLANT RESULTS

A postcard from you to me gets my list.

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# NEW AFFILIATED

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707 S. Fourth Street

Aurora, Illinois

**FOR AFFILIATED CHAPTER INFORMATION  
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# WHY AFFILIATE?

A MESSAGE TO AFFILIATED CHAPTERS FROM  
ADA MAGILL, AFFILIATED CHAPTER CHAIRMAN

Greetings to each and every one of you in the fast growing family of Affiliated Chapters.

I realize only too well the delay some of you have experienced in getting answers to your communications. At this writing I am almost caught up with organizing the affiliated work, so from now on I trust you will not be inconvenienced by my tardiness.

Now for a bit may we concentrate on "Why Affiliate?"

When the subject of whether a local club should affiliate with the African Violet Society of America, Inc. is brought up, some SKEPTIC can usually be counted upon to rise and ask: "Why Affiliate?"

Sadly enough, if no one happens to have ready a sound and logical answer, that group may coast along for years without the advantages of a national affiliation.

This brings to my mind a typical example -- not an African Violet Club but a Women's Garden Club in the midwest. A fine group of women with two decades of organization beyond them. Through the years the subject of affiliation has popped up now and again, but invariably some one chokes off discussion of the subject with: "We have gotten along these fifteen or eighteen years, as the case may be, as we are so why do it now?"

If this was just a matter of a group of self-centered experts interested solely in exchanging ideas with experts, we could drop the issue. But, even some of OUR Affiliated Clubs have already found that in the long run this business of experts talking with experts can be over done. It is a matter of terminology. It is easy to understand that a horticultural society might want to measure its membership against a yardstick of scientific training. An African Violet Club is something else again. All sorts of women and men are growers of the Saintpaulia, many with heaps of scientific lore, others who learn by trial and error.

The challenge of an African Violet Club is to bring the expert together with the interested amateur. The expert has something the novice to African violet growing needs desperately -- good sound advice. (We whisper this parenthetically, some of the experts find new sources in inspiration through contacts with unassuming "Advanced" amateurs one encounters in African violet meetings).

Yes, my Saintpaulia friends, the fact that your club has been functioning successfully even these few short years is all the more reason why you should join the A. V. S. of A. You have the know how that is worth sharing with African violet growers in your community who need to know more about good culture.

If your club now has its membership roster filled that merely indicates that you could be doing a better job for your community and for your region. The excellent job being done by some of the newly organized clubs is an example of what your club might be doing as an A. V. S. of A. Affiliate. The San Gabriel Valley Chapter of California has been instrumental in organizing several groups, giving California fourteen affiliated Chapters. At this writing Tennessee has nine qualified chapters. Since the inception of affiliation most major cities in the United States and Canada are in the African Violet Society of America movement.

Affiliation is the link between African violet growers everywhere, it helps to shape and coordinate programs through exchange of information. We could recount several services available to member Chapters -- slides for programs, tape recordings of principal speakers, the opportunity to meet fellow growers at local, regional and national meetings, plus the privilege of being a member of the African Violet Society of America, which entitles you to the magazine quarterly. It is always chucked full of interesting and helpful information, and, in fact, one issue is worth the price of a years subscription.

To the member who rises up to announce to all and sundry that he or she isn't interested in doing anything for anybody, A. V. S. of A. Affiliation is still a boon. He can hardly rub shoulders with a real enthusiast without sooner or later feeling the impact of national association.

Over and above all that one gets or gives, there is a heap of satisfaction in the feeling of participation in the activities that have made the African Violet Society of America a vital force in the world of horticulture during its very young life of seven years.

If yours is one of the clubs still hesitating about affiliation, we invite you now to give serious thought to broadening the scope of your activities through affiliation.



## FINEST PLANT FOOD

## MEALYBUGS

Ruby Jones, Ill.

Julia Book, Ohio

Re: "No Plant Food," Vol. 5, No. 2

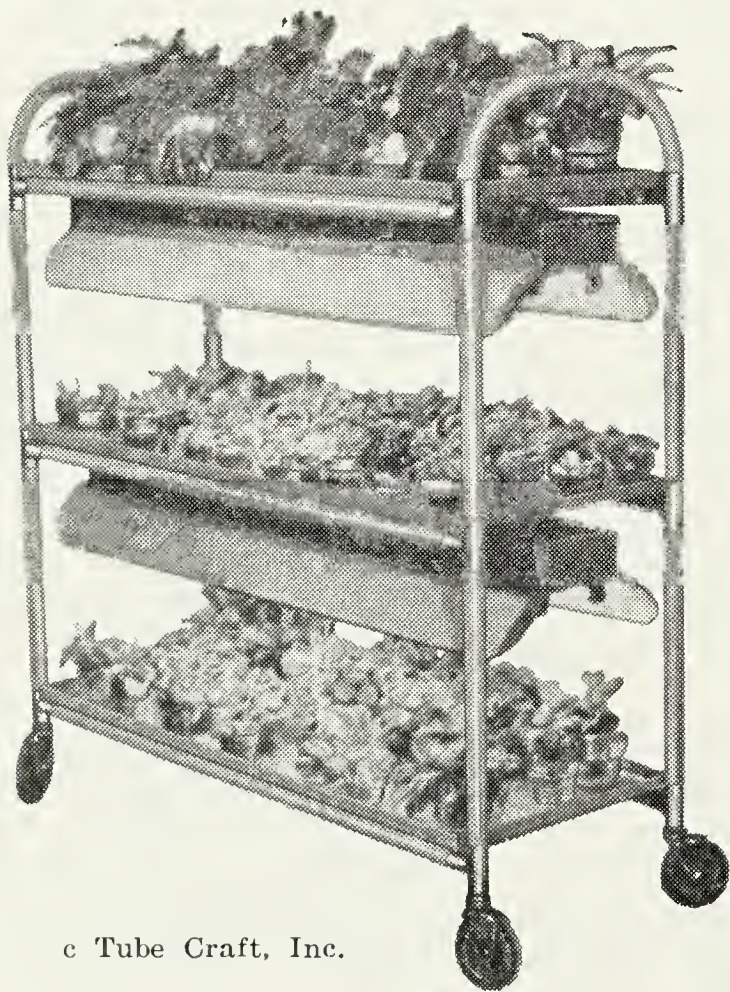
The caption "No Plant Food" is misleading as earthworm castings are the finest plant food there is. Without worms the earth could not produce bumper crops. They aerate the soil and increase the moisture.

Chemical fertilizers destroy earthworms. Such artificial stimulants disrupt the teamwork which takes place in organic rich soils between tiny fringe and the roots of plants. Roots and rootlets alone do not convert soil into plant food. The Greeks had a word for it, Mycorrhiza, myco meaning fungus plus rrihiza meaning root.

To rid your plants of mealy bugs or mites try Black Leaf Forty. It is easy to purchase as it may be found at your nearest drug store.

Use it at the rate of 1 teaspoonful to the quart of lukewarm water and spray your plants thoroughly -- or hold the plant on its side and pour the mixture over and between the leaves. The spray that remains in the pan is used to water the soil with. Pour off the residue.

My African violets seem to like this treatment and to be on the safe side I spray them once a month and do their leaves shine. They bloom beautifully too!



c Tube Craft, Inc.

### DO YOUR AFRICAN VIOLETS SULK and REFUSE TO BLOOM?

Then you need the Tube Craft FloraCart. According to recent research, African Violets have no "rest period." If grown properly, they should bloom continuously.

The FloraCart will enable you to give your plants the care they need to bloom profusely. This means plenty of light. Although not included as standard equipment, fluorescent fixtures are available to attach to the FloraCart. These fixtures are designed to deliver the recommended amount of foot candles (300 at 18") with special reflector to provide maximum light distribution.

The FloraCart is the handiest flower stand ever devised, offering greater utility value. It will hold more than 300 3" flower pots. It can be easily moved from one location to another. Its water tight, galvanized steel trays, 1½" deep, allow the preferred method of watering from the bottom. When filled with flowers the FloraCart makes a striking appearance, and adds a decorative note to any room.

Overall size 52" long x 19" deep x 52" high. Gray baked enamel finish. Shipped knocked down with all necessary fittings, including bolts and nuts, for easy home assembly. Fully guaranteed against defects in material or construction.

Price of FloraCart (without fluorescent fixtures) \$52.50  
Shipping wgt. 100 lbs. Fluorescent fixtures -- \$11.50 each

Shipping wgt. 20 lbs. Bracket for attaching fixtures to top tray \$6.50. All prices F. O. B. Cleveland, Ohio. Remit by check or money order. Ohio customers add 3% sales tax.

Shipped express unless otherwise instructed.

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Descriptive Folder  
and  
Group Purchase Plan

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# *The Art of Growing New African Violets from Leaves*

Irene Pendleton, Mo.

Let us start with a leaf from a nice, healthy African violet plant . . . not the leaf lying on the rim of the pot, because that one has lost vitality for reproducing. Only a small percentage of such leaves will grow roots. Any other leaf on the plant will root nicely, providing, of course, the plant is healthy.

Cut the leaf stem about two and one-half inches long, and slightly on a slant. A safety razor blade will leave a smooth surface. Ragged edges do not root readily.

There are two rooting methods. You can place the leaf stem in moist vermiculite, leaving an inch and a half of stem above the soil . . . or you can place the stem in a glass of water. The glass top should be small enough to support the leaf, and prevent its sinking below the surface of the water.

## **But Not the Sun.**

Place the leaf in a good, strong light, but not in hot sun. Wait until new roots have developed to an inch in length. Then it should be placed in a container of vermiculite.

It is best to transfer the leaf before little new plants form. But if the new plant has started then plant the leaf as deep in the vermiculite as you would if there were only roots on the stem. Shallow planting is not wise because the vermiculite is very porous and will not support a leaf and stem not planted deeply.

Those deeply planted produce nice stems for firming down when transferred to soil. This prevents the wobbling so commonly seen.

When the plants in the vermiculite have grown an inch or two high they can be transferred to a small pot. You should discard the mother leaf. Also you should divide the new growing plants and pot each one separately. (Actually I, myself, prefer to replant each little plant, lining them out in a flat container. These new plants are left until they have grown another inch or so in height. They are fed occasionally, because vermiculite has no food value. This system produces an immense root system, the basis for a fine, healthy plant.)

The better the roots, the better the plant. I have never found a medium as good as vermiculite to encourage a huge root system.

## **Potting Time.**

The time to put the growing plant into a pot—and the size of the pot—depends upon the roots

rather than the foliage. You should never over-pot an African violet. Many plants go to African violet heaven through over potting.

Usually a 2¼ inch pot is proper for the first planting. As the plant grows it should be shifted to the next size and so on—but certainly stop at four inches unless you have a real giant plant, which might take a 5-inch pot.

Again let me stress that it is not wise to over-pot. A 3 or 3½ -inch pot is ample for a nice-size blooming plant.

## **BENNERS FOR VIOLETS**

See for yourself large clean beautiful blooming plants.

Newest varieties in 2¼ to 3 inch pots

Please no mail orders at this time

## **BENNERS VIOLET SHOPPE**

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ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

ONE-HALF BLOCK NORTH OF ROUTE 150

## **WINDOVER POTTING SOIL FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS**

Sterilized with LARVACIDE. Contains 45% flaky leafmold (mostly oak) plus woodland top-soil, crushed sandstone, peat moss, woodashes, bone meal, superphosphate and charcoal.

4 lbs. \$1.00, 9 lbs. \$2.00, 13 lbs. \$2.50.

## **AFRICAN VIOLET POTS**

Attractive clay pots (squatty) of excellent quality, with treated edges. Customers say — "I like them better than any I have ever seen."

**WE REPLACE POTS BROKEN IN SHIPMENT**

3 inch, 12 for \$2.00 — 4 inch, 10 for \$2.00

2 inch starting pots — 24 for \$1.60

2¼ inch starting pots — 24 for \$2.00

## **COARSE VERMICULITE (ZONOLITE)**

Preferred by many for rooting leaves, etc.

6 quarts \$1.00 — 24 quarts \$2.50

**EVERYTHING POSTPAID EAST OF DENVER**

## **WINDOVER**

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Inglefield, Indiana

## **"JOAN OF ARC"**

**DARK WINE WITH DARK FOREST GREEN GIRL FOLIAGE. DOESN'T FADE. \$2.00 EACH POSTPAID.**

**PERIWINKLE SUPREME MEDIUM BLUE WITH WHITE EYE. \$2.00 EACH POSTPAID.**

**OUR OWN INTRODUCTIONS FOR 1953**

## **EVA LETOURNEAU**

Rt. No. 2, Box 479

Puyallup, Washington



## AS ONE WOMAN SEES THEM

Cont. from Page 19

In this age of troubled times (when was it not thus . . . ?) One must have a diversion. Collect something, (better decide on one and stick to it) works of art, antiques, buttons, shells, stones, dolls, etc. Or take up painting (Grandma Moses didn't do too bad), handicraft, weaving, rug mak-



### GROWERS

### HYBRIDIZERS

**ANNABELLE** - A small-growing plant with very curly girl foliage, and tremendous two-tone orchid flowers on long stems above the tufted plant. One of our new introductions for 1953. . . . . \$2.00

**DOUBLE DUMPLING** - Another of our new ones for '53. A miniature bright blue double, also with curly girl foliage. A plump little plant. . . . . \$2.00

**BRONZE CHERUB** - Introduced by Mrs. Schafer of Tecumseh, Nebraska. A small-growing girl with lovely bronzy green shining leaves, and the "bowknot" type of blossoms, which are orchid in color, and borne in profusion. . . . . \$2.00

**SPECIAL OFFER:** the above three plants plus the \$1.00 size package of our ORNU African Violet Food, a \$7.00 value, postpaid for \$6.00.

PLANTS

LEAVES

SEED

Send for list

## Orchard Nursery

4011 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Lafayette, Calif.

### AUTOMATIC-WATERING

### PLANT GLASWIK

4" round wicks; 1/16" .08¢ for small pots, 7/32"-A .08¢ for 3" and 4" pots, 7/32"-B .10¢ for 4", 5" and 6" pots, 1/4" .12¢ for 6", 7" and 8" pots, 3/8" .15¢ for 8", 9" and larger pots.

WRITE FOR BULK PRICES

### JOHN P. TOBERMAN

4502 Merrie Lane

Bellaire, Texas

ing, can be an outlet for one's creative urge. Out-door exercise, such as golf, tennis, horse back riding (yes even at your age!), swimming, hiking, photography, gardening may be the answer to your excess energies. Just follow the natural trend of your particular interests and the outcome will astound you.

Vera Carlson, a true hobbyist, didn't go in frantic search of one, the object of a search can be so elusive! One must have the faith to know that Fate has a way of placing the materials at our disposal, taking for granted that everyone has the good sense to know, when one sees it that "that's for me . . . . ."

In Vera's case, out of the throes of illness came a whole new horizon. While she was in the hospital a friend gave her an African violet plant. The beauty, delicate coloring, velvety leaves intrigued her. She became absorbed in wonderment and pleasurable contemplation; for awhile she was able to forget the pain, the unpleasantness of illness.

Then about eight years ago her father became ill. One of his nurses gave several leaves to her mother, (who died about a year ago) two of which she gave to Vera. They grew into beautiful plants. She still has one of them. It measures twenty four inches across! This plant will be a living symbol, a lovely memento of her mother. Recently the African Violet Club of Rockford decided to name it "Heirloom" and use it as a Mascot. So, the thoughtfulness of one brings joy, admiration, beauty and pleasure to many.

Vera, having the natural flair for beauty and charm, has long been an avid antique enthusiast. In her quest for early American glass and authentic pieces of furniture, she attends auctions about the surrounding cities and states. On one of these trips she acquired rare and unusual African violet leaves. So from mild interest, curiosity, to acquisition, came pursuit and adventure. Vera delved into research books at the library, learned the intricacies of raising, growing and caring for these delicate plants. She was off on her hobby at quite a clip! So without realizing to what extent she was becoming involved she went into it with everything she had.

She was invited to join the African Violet Club and here among congenial company she learned of the many, many different varieties of plants. This stimulated her and aroused her curiosity -- without which no one ever discovered anything. So she began her quest for the rare and unusual. She aspires to raise better plants with larger blooms, and a more profuse blossoming on one stalk.

Any hobby to be successful must be absorbing. No one appreciates the extent of absorption in raising African violets like the persons who raise them. No baby in his crib, no progressive illness, throbbing tooth ache ever extracted the toll, such as the demands that these lovelies in their pots, make on one's time! One must keep



them uppermost in one's mind. Proper watering, heating, adjustment of lighting, handling, etc. are of prime importance. If one goes into it on a large scale one's life revolves around the violets! This is no idle comment . . . Vera has had to make many adjustments in her life, because of her plants. When she leaves for any period of time, she gets a "baby sitter" for her violets. She has had to refuse invitations, engagements and social functions at times because of the urgency and demands on her time by these plants.

Ridiculous !!! ? ? ? You say? Not at all. You see, Vera has about three hundred plants in her home comprising fifty different varieties. She has Amazons, Supremes, Doubles, du Ponts, Fringettes, Spoons, Ruffles, Girls, Boys, two Albinos and two variegated -- When there is an unusual one about to blossom, she can hardly wait to get down stairs in the morning to see if it has opened. When she has about eighty already blooming, one can realize how her personal care extends over each plant, equally. The seriousness with which Vera pursues her hobby is attested to by the prized blue ribbons she has won at various showings. The constant blooms and the array of color in her home are the triumphant banners that give satisfaction to this labor of love. Vera extends these messengers of good will when occasion arises. She is never at a loss for a delightful gift and any who are the recipient know the extent of her pleasure and pride in being able to give of herself as she extends the gift.

The tinge of commercialism will never touch her project. She has developed her "project" and her "green thumb" venture knows no boundaries. She says she has more than she needs, but she still pursues her hobby with the same enthusiasm as she did at first. It was twenty years ago that she received her first plant, but it was in just the last three years that she has become so completely involved. Over the years these plants have become a part of her life. They have helped smooth out the rough spots and disappointments, diverted her mind in time of pressure and worry over loved ones who were ill, and who were lost through death. The advice Vera Carlson would give those aspiring to become African violet enthusiasts is only this: "Keep a check on the reins of your hobby, you are creating a thing of beauty . . . don't let it become a monster. Don't commercialize, don't let them become common, and don't let your hobby master you. (Keep your plants well in hand)."

At my first meeting with Vera's family of violets I gazed in fascination at the profusion and magnificence of her plants. I had no comprehension of the thought, time, and energy involved. Like Topsy, I thought plants just grew! So Vera took the time to tell me how she went about getting her prize winning violets to maturity. She set down a few simple rules to which she adheres religiously.

## SUPPLIES for AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING

### PLASTIC LABELS

Thickness A	125 for \$1.00
Thickness B	100 for \$1.00

### INSECTICIDES

NNOR	6-oz. \$1.25
Sodium Selenate	12 caps \$1.00
Lindane	1-lb. \$1.10
Kapsulate, Optox, Optox Special, Soilene, Marvel Spray, Detex, and others.	

### FUNGICIDES

Fermate, Arasan, Anti-Damp, Others.

### FERTILIZERS

Hyponex, Electra, NuPhosk, Plant Marvel. Others.

### FOR MIXING POTTING SOIL

Bone Meal, Charcoal, Ground Limestone, Hyper Humus, Gypsum, Leaf Mold, Limestone Chips, Peat Moss, Superphosphate.

### GLASS WICKING

All sizes and lengths.

### OTHER ITEMS

Metal foil, Vitamin B<sup>1</sup>, pots, (clay and plastic), vermiculite, Rootone, plate glass, duPont Garden Products, sprayers, etc.

Write for Catalogue. If you sell African violets ask for Dealer Price List too.

**NEIL C. MILLER**

Layton's Lake, R. D.  
PENNS GROVE 6, N. J.

## Specializing in the Unusual AFRICAN VIOLETS also their cousins

### LEAVES, ROOTED CUTTINGS AND PLANTS

Pink Attraction, Frosty, Corsage, Minuet Girl, Molly and many others.

Tunia's "Rose of Detroit" available in June.

Send for complete list

**HELEN POCHUREK**

ARTHUR RD. SOLON, OHIO

400 ft. off Rt. 91 and 1 mile south of Rt. 43.  
Easy to locate and just 20 miles from  
Cleveland.



## TO HAVE HEALTHY PLANTS . . . . .

They should **not** get direct sunlight.

Water plants faithfully.

Water from the top about once every two weeks. (This carries the accumulation of salts down).

Proper amount of food.

Proper mixture. (Too rich food will kill or dwarf them).

Water should be room temperature.

## HEREBY HANGS A TALE

Vera began her violets in an outside garden and achieved wonderful results. She has her own successful prescription for "Cow tea." She bakes and sterilizes her own fertilizer. (Vera did it . . . . you can too!) This mixture is heated to the right temperature, water added, then strained into bottles. Water is added about once a month. Soil should be slightly acid, pH. 6.5 -- pH. 6.9. Best mixture is virgin soil, cow manure and small amount of sand.

When the weather reared its threatening head, out-door gardening had to be abandoned. Vera wanted a greenhouse, but the cost was prohibitive. So tables were set up in the basement. Temperature maintained at 70 degrees. (68-70

best.) Daylight fluorescent lamps were installed, automatically controlled so they would be on 12 hours daily. The two fixtures give no heat. Violets do best if 12 hours of continuous darkness is supplied and 12 hours of light, so as not to interrupt their sleep. This lighting is obtained with two 40 watt white bulbs, (Westinghouse). Commercial, fluorescent, with reflector. The lights are fifteen inches from the plants and the bulbs are forty inches long. When plants are brought up into daylight it takes them time to become accustomed and adjusted or leaves become mottled.

Clay pots are best for the plants, but the pot does not make a great deal of difference, just so it can get air and water from the bottom. It is necessary to re-pot occasionally. It is quite difficult to transplant a very large plant. It may be worthwhile to break the pot by tapping with a trowel or hammer and not disturb the roots. One should never over-pot. That is, use a pot that is very much larger than the one in which the plant is growing.

The utmost care must be observed in the handling of African violets from other collections. Precaution must be observed as diseases are quickly and easily transported. Cyclamen Mite is the most deadly killer. Nematodes cause roots to become

# AFRICAN VIOLETS

We extend to you an invitation to visit us. Our entire greenhouse range of an acre under glass has been converted to African Violets.

## SPRING 1953

"KING NEPTUNE"  
(Amazon of Double Neptune)  
VAUGHN'S BLUE FAIRY TALE

## FALL 1953

"PEACHES AND CREAM"  
Light pink bicolor  
Round, quilted, olive green foliage

WE ARE WORKING ON SELECTED  
STRAINS OF THE MOST INTERESTING  
VARIETIES, MANY OF THESE ARE  
AVAILABLE NOW

THE AMAZONS OF MOST VARIETIES ARE  
INCLUDED ON OUR 1953 PRICE LIST.

Wholesale Shipments Only

Dealers write for our 1953 price list

# J. A. PETERSON SONS

3132 McHENRY AVE.

CINCINNATI 11, OHIO



deformed. If watering is not carefully administered plants get root rot.

With the welfare of her project always uppermost in her mind, Vera has bought soil from other states and mixed it with her own. She has found that soil sold commercially and expressly for African violets is not entirely satisfactory. She tried Vermiculite at first, but found that Georgia peat is easiest for starting leaves.

Aside from the intensive study of methods of cultivating and growing violets there is always the stimulating quest for unusual types. Vera tried growing plants from one of the seed pods off one of her violets but was unsuccessful. It takes too long and one may get numerous plants with perhaps none worth while. So Vera gave up in deference to the professional growers.

Vera has found that many seedlings from the same pod will have a different look. Some will reproduce true to parent plant. Others will revert in future generations. If it comes true after three generations one may feel confident one has a true plant.

In starting plants from leaves take the strongest leaves from blossoming plants. Do not take those from outer rim, and not from immediate center. Some of the leaves she has planted produced one or several small plants in six weeks. Others such as du Ponts etc. take longer.

The varieties of blossoms and their respective names are in the hundreds. They range from deep, deep purple to pastel pink . . . . to the purest white. So far there has never been a real yellow African violet and it isn't likely that there ever will be, because the yellow pigment is said to be lacking in the plant.

Some day a grower may sometime, in some way, without the use of artificial methods of coloring, which I am told has been done -- find a way to produce a yellow violet.

So . . . . if you are a bit in the doldrums, why not put your new Easter bonnet on and stop by

the enchanting window filled with African violets (the Saintpaulia is really not a violet but is related to the Gloxinia).

You will enter a new life, exciting and adventuresome! From this pleasurable pursuit you will find new friends, new avenues of knowledge will beckon, horizons will broaden . . . . and before you know it you will become an extroverted hobbyist, happy, satisfied and self contained. So let's get started, and good luck!



**CHOICE NEW AFRICAN VIOLETS**  
Available in

Plants	Leaves	Cuttings
☆	☆	☆

It's been a banner year for exciting new things at Ballerina Gardens. Many superb new introductions of exceptional merit and beauty you can't afford to miss. Such varieties as:  
**BLUE OHIO, EVENING SUNSET, GENEVA'S DAUGHTER, PINK CHEER, DOUBLE FRINGED WHITE, SIR LANCELOT, HOLLY, SUPRITA, ROBINHOOD, DAINTY DUCHESS** and many others.

As usual, these exclusive new beauties have been rigorously tested before being judged worthy of BALLERINA GARDENS endorsement of superior quality.

★ ★ ★  
**OUR SPRING LIST NOW AVAILABLE**  
**SENT ON REQUEST**

Ballerina Gardens

**KENNETH W. GAINES**  
**4 GREER ST. MT. VERNON, OHIO**

# MY AFRICAN VIOLET MEDICINE CABINET

Ethel Thalheimer, Cal.

At the editors request Mrs. Thalheimer has listed some of her favorite sprays and fertilizers.

- Ridz — Two teaspoons to a gallon of water.  
Mfg. — Boyle, Midway, Inc.  
Jersey City, 2, N. J.  
Los Angeles 11, Calif.
- I use this once a week as a general spray -- excellent for mealy bug.

- Liquinox — One teaspoon to one quart of water.  
Mfg. — Liquinox Co., Orange, Calif.
- It comes in two types. I use the 10-10-5. It deepens to leaf and flower tonic.
- Vitamin B<sup>1</sup> (liquid) -- One teaspoon to one gallon of water. Use as an alternate feeding.  
Mfg. — California Liquid Fertilizer Co.  
36 Pico St., Pasadena, Calif.
- I also have and use —
- Atlas Fertilizer, Hyponex, Sodium Selenate, Fermate, Rootone, Spoonit.
- I like variety, and I think my violets are like me; therefore they get a variety in their diet.



## QUESTION BOX

Cont. from Page 41

Q: Have had wonderful African violets for over 6 years without ever being troubled by a "bug." Now all of a sudden my healthy plants will have first one leaf around the edge get brown at tip and limp, then another and before long the plant is gone. I used sterilized potting soil. I thought when it was so warm this summer that the heat was doing it but now that cold weather is here they still do it.

Mrs. W. V. Meade, Klamath Falls, Oregon

A: If those were my plants I would suspect a root rot or crown rot. Hope that you took them out of the pot and examined the root system.

Q: Can you figure this strange reaction of plant Red King? I keep notes on all my plants. I bought this violet, medium size plant from a reputable dealer in July 1951, in bloom and true to form. The plant has never stopped blooming "notes". One year later, July 1952 I can't imagine what got into Red King. The blossoms not red but very much violet. Then in August 1952 not only violet but some blossoms with white streaks

and white petals. Then some with four petals and even six. "Hold your hat". September 1952 lo and behold the flowers on a few of the stems were doubles with violet and white petals. First part of October 1952, new blossoms were light violet color. October 27, 1952, yes you can guess it -- the new blossoms coming back true to color Red King. Have changed fertilizers recently. Would this have anything to do with it?

Mrs. V. Franck, Gross Pte. Mich.

A: Would not think that fertilizer had anything to do with this condition. Every now and then we raise a "freak" and I think you've got it!

Q: I have a plant of Bronze Girl that was advertised to be a light blue. This past year all I have seen in the lists as Bronze Girl call the bloom red-orchid. I ordered one to compare it with mine and the leaves are entirely different than mine. Then I ordered a Sailor Girl to see if it was like my first Bronze Girl but the leaves are not the same. Grown in good light, my plant has a good bit of pink or light red on petioles and in large spot at base of leaf. Leaves are dark on top, light underneath. They are glossy and, as they get older, are cut more deeply and pinched back more than any girl leaf I have seen except Helen Wilson. The flowers are almost the same size and color as Blue Eyes except that they are a bluer blue and Blue Eyes has a faint pinkish tinge. It is not such a free bloomer, but always attracts attention because the leaves make it a showy plant. The leaves are much prettier than the red-orchid Bronze Girl. Can you give me any idea what it might be? Were there two Bronze Girls?

Mrs. O. A. Ashby, Hanson, Ky.

### FLOWER HAVEN

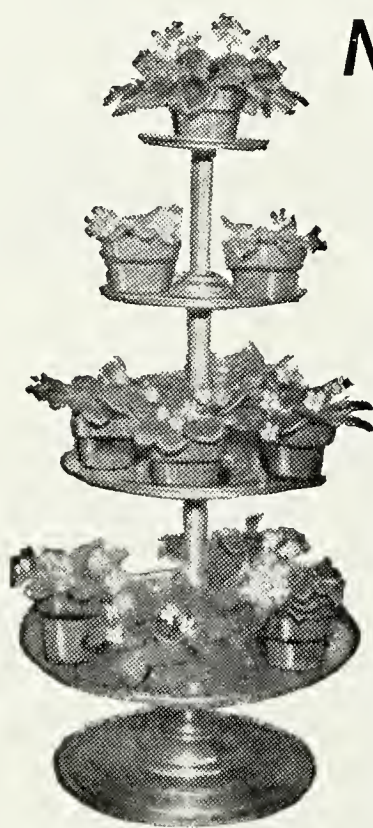
African violets, other plants, newest varieties, shipping, home sales, leaves, rooted cuttings, small plants.

STAMP FOR LIST

MRS. IRVAN LACHER

ROUTE 4

FREEPORT, ILLINOIS



## New Revolving FLOWER TREES

### FOR YOUR CHERISHED AFRICAN VIOLETS

Made of lustrous rustproof spun aluminum. Each tray is waterproof and holds up to ½ inch of water. Plants can be watered the ideal way—from the bottom. No individual watering! This tree holds up to 18 four-inch African Violet flower pots, yet requires only 20-inch diameter floor space. Each tray rotates freely about center for even sunning of plants.

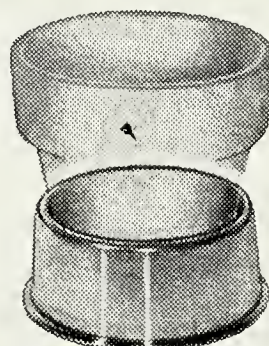
These Flower Trees are available in five heights.

36" high: 9" from floor to lower tray; 9" between trays.	Each	\$24.50
39" high: 12" from floor to lower tray; 9" between trays.	Each	\$25.25
42" high: 15" from floor to lower tray; 9" between trays.	Each	\$26.00
45" high: 18" from floor to lower tray; 9" between trays.	Each	\$26.75
48" high: 18" from floor to lower tray; 10" between trays.	Each	\$27.50

All trees are shipped assembled via express—prepaid.

Write for free circular on WOOD Flower Trees

**OZARK SPUNALUM CO.**  
BOX 59-AVM, JACKSON, MISSOURI



### NEW Spun Aluminum WICK-FED SAUCERS for the famous Ceramo AFRICAN VIOLET FLOWER POTS

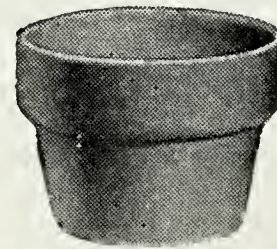
Your African Violets can now be watered the ideal way—from the bottom—with these new saucers.

6 Saucers & Wicks for 3" pots.....	\$4.50
6 Saucers & Wicks for 4" pots.....	\$5.50
6 Saucers & Wicks for 5" pots.....	\$6.00

### CERAMO AFRICAN VIOLET FLOWER POTS

8 4" pots.....	\$2.00
6 5" pots.....	\$2.00
10 3" pots.....	\$2.00

These famous Squatty Pots of dark red clay, with their excellent porosity, are used and recommended by Florists. Specially treated edges help prevent sloughing off of leaves.



**REGULAR SPUN ALUMINUM SAUCERS** for 3", 4" or 5" pots...12 for \$4.65  
Shipments sent ppd. Add 25¢ set postage W. of Rockies  
**We Will Replace All Broken Pots**



A: Some of our members should be able to help you classify your Bronze Girl that has blue blossoms. I think it is characteristic of Bronze Girl to have different looking foliage. I have been to quite a few shows where there are five or six Bronze Girls on display and no two of them seem to have just the same foliage. Different growing conditions probably have something to do with this. Will some of you let us hear your experiences with this variety?

Q: Have been interested in African violets for almost 3 years. In this time I have started many leaves which after a time gave birth to plantlets but now I have a leaf of Blue Warrior which I started about 9 months ago and instead of having plantlets it has tripled its size. Is this common?

Mrs. Welford Ransane, West Palm Beach, Fla.

A: It sounds as though you started a leaf from a young plant which had not fully matured. That is why it has taken it time to grow and later on your plantlets should appear.

Q: I am writing to ask if you or a member of the African Violet Society can tell me why all my Girl violets have lost their white spot completely. I have set them in strong light, have set them in shade and still no white returns. All the leaves have a very healthy shade of green. Pink Girl and Sailor Girl both had white spots when they came from the Greenhouse last year. The White Girl Hybrid and Blue Girl and Sailor's Delight I raised from leaves and the white on these disappeared too. I will appreciate any information you can give me as I am very partial to the "Girls."

Ruth Jessup, Steamboat Springs, Colo.

A: I did not know a thing about this so wrote to Helen Pochurek for help. Here is what she said: "I can't help you out with this one -- I have raised thousands of Girls, but never have had them lose the white entirely. I wonder if the soil or light has something to do with it?" She also suggested that we hear from other Colorado members. So let us hear from you Colorado members as it might be altitude or some minerals in the water out there.

## Here's proof that YOU can grow PRIZE WINNING AFRICAN VIOLETS



Mrs. Delphine Hotchkiss, 110 High Point Road, Peoria, Ill., exhibits the superb specimens which won 6 of the higher awards in the 1952 National Convention of the African Violet Society.

### Here's how Delphine Hotchkiss took 6 top prizes:

"I follow two important rules in lighting and feedings, says Mrs. Hotchkiss: I use fluorescent lighting and liquid plant food. I've tried more than one liquid plant food and have found that PLANT MARVEL gives me the best blooms. If you want larger, more abundant blossoms on your African violets, I recommend PLANT MARVEL. It gives my plants the necessary 'oomph' to come into full bloom with

giant size blossoms and to continue blooming all the year around."

PLANT MARVEL is a 100% soluble, scientifically-balanced food for all plants and particularly for African violet rootlets which absorb it instantly.

FREE: The full story of how Mrs. Hotchkiss grows prize winning African violets. Write



Ask your local florist or garden supply shop, or send \$1.25 for enough to make 250 gallons!

# PLANT MARVEL

622 W. 119th St., Dept. AV-B, Chicago 28, Ill.



Surface feeding means surface roots



Local feeding -- note scalded roots



Plant Marvel feeds the entire root system



# THE PLANT ON THE COVER

**"SHOW PINK"** — a new dark pink with good growing habits. The leaves are rounded, growth is flat and symmetrical (similar to duPonts), and the leaves are dark green with dark red backs. The flowers are large and very deep in color. Only leaves are available of this variety at present — \$1.25 each; rooted leaf cutting, \$1.50

Orders including **"SHOW PINK"** leaves will be shipped in May, but other leaf and plant orders will be shipped before this as soon as danger of freezing is over.

## SPRING AND SUMMER 1953 PRICE LIST OF LEAVES AND PLANTS

### NEWEST VARIETIES (ONLY LEAVES AVAILABLE) 50¢ EACH

**ALBINO REDHEAD** — Shaded green and white leaves, propagates true.  
**ALMA WRIGHT** — New Double White.  
**BLUE CHARM** — Shaded blue and white flower, spooned leaf.  
**CORSAGE** — Extremely light blue double, dark leaf.  
**DOUBLE FRINGED WHITE LACE** — Fringed, large double white with lavender tint.  
**FRILLED BLUE DELIGHT** — Fringed, shaded, blue and white flower.  
**HOLLY** — Very dark, fringed leaf with red reverse.

### NEWEST VARIETIES — LEAVES 35¢; SINGLE CROWN PLANTS (PRICE A), \$1.25 EACH; SINGLE CROWN PLANTS (PRICE B), \$2.00 EACH

**ALBINO** — Lavender blossom, shaded green and white leaves, propagates true.  
**AUTUMN** — Large flowered double blue, foliage similar to "Holly."  
**BLUE SHEEN** — Mottled light blue and white flower, propagates true.  
**GLORY** — Double lavender and white mottled flower.  
**LAVENDER ECLIPSE** — Very odd blue and white flower mottled with lavender.  
**PAINTED BOY** — Mottled dark blue and white flowers, heavy bloomer.  
**PANSY BEAUTY** — Light lavender with each petal tipped with dark red lavender.

### THESE NEW VARIETIES — LEAVES 35¢ EACH; PLANT (PRICE A), \$1.00; PLANT (PRICE B), \$1.50

Apple Blossom	Dbl. Fringed White	Lavender Eyed Beauty	Star Girl
Blue Star	Dbl. Neptune Supreme	Pink Cheer	Suprita
Blue Top-Knot	Eclipse	Pink Fantasy	Twinkle
Brussels Sprouts	Evening Sunset	Purple Lace	Velvet Girl
Crazy Quilt	Fringed Double Orchid	Red Princess	Wine Velvet
Delightful	Geneva Daughter	Ruffled Queen	Wonder Girl

### THESE NEW VARIETIES — LEAVES 35¢; PLANT (PRICE A), 75¢; PLANT (PRICE B), \$1.50

Baby Pink	Dbl. Sailor Girl	Magnifico	Red Velvet Girl
Bridesmaid	Dbl. Sunset Girl	Mulberry Girl	S. magungensis
Carmen	DuPont Delight	Orchid Spoon	S. tongwensis
Dbl. Gorg. Blue Wonder	Fire Chief	Queen Betty	Sunset Girl
Double Lady	Innocence	Red Lady	Violet Beauty Supreme

### THESE VARIETIES — LEAVES 25¢ EACH; PLANT (PRICE A), 75¢; PLANT (PRICE B), \$1.25

Bronze BiColor	Gorgeous Supreme	Pink Delight	S. grotei
Dbl. Orchid Neptune	Gypsy Pink	Pink Sheen	Ulery Orchid Hybrid
Dbl. Rose and White	Lady Grace	Red Chief	Yellow Brown Girl
Fantasy	Navy Bouquet	Royal Girl	
Geneva Star	Painted Girl	Ruffled Beauty	

### THESE VARIETIES — LEAVES 20¢; SINGLE CROWN PLANT (PRICE A), 50¢; SINGLE CROWN PLANT (PRICE B), \$1.00

Azure Beauty	Geneva Rainbow	DuPont Blue	Purity No. 2
Black Beauty	Gorgeous Blue Wonder	DuPont Lavender Pink	Red King
Blue Delight	Hy. Seedlings (all colors)	Dbl. Blue Hybrid	Red Velvet
Blue Eyed Girl	Lacy Girl	Double Neptune	Sailor's Delight
Bronze Girl Hybrid	Lady Ulery	Dbl. Orchid BiColor	Sailor Girl
Blue Heiress	Orchid Sunset	Dbl. Orchid Girl	Snow Girl
Dark Beauty	Orchid Velvet	Dbl. Orchid Hybrid	Snow Prince
Delight	Pink Girl	Double Rose	Violet Beauty
Det. White Girl	Purity	Dbl. Sea Girl	Violet Glow

These above plants are in 2½ inch pots and are in bud or bloom. The largest available are always sent, but if ordering in quantity, it is best to list several substitutes in case we are temporarily out of any variety.

PRICE "A" should be used if ordering 25 plants. (These can be 25 different varieties if desired.) These are shipped in their pots, packed 25 to a carton, and are sent express collect.

PRICE "B" should be used if ordering 1 to 24 plants. These are sent postpaid.

Plant and leaf orders can be combined, but for orders under \$5.00 please add 50¢ for postage and packing.

# HENRY TEN HAGEN

DEPT. WD

WARSAW, NEW YORK

VISITORS WELCOME AT MY GREENHOUSE  
 LOCATED ONE MILE SOUTH OF WARSAW ON ROUTE NO. 19



## MUST WE GUESS?

Cont. from Page 35

### (3) MEDIUM POTASH LEVEL

### (4) ACIDITY pH 6.5 TO pH 7.

Mix the various components of your soil mixture, but do not add any fertilizers. Then **TEST IT**. You will then know what the soil requires.

The soil testing kit instructions will give you fairly complete information on what ingredient to add, and how much of it to add to obtain the desired result.

A 5-10-5 fertilizer will provide three chemical ingredients, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash. Steamed bonemeal will provide low nitrogen, high phosphorus, and muriate of potash supplies potash.

Mix the fertilizers into the soil, and allow it to stand for thirty days. Then **TEST IT AGAIN**. In this way, you eliminate any guesswork.

Besides taking the scientific approach, the testing routine is fun, and it is very educational. You will find yourself testing your regular garden soil. You will be tempted to test the packaged African violet soils put out by the various suppliers. By all means, do so. The old adage "Seeing is Believing," should never be allowed to apply to soil, when that soil is to provide sustenance for your African violets. Just because it looks good, and rich, and black, as well as loose, you cannot assume that it is good. Seeing is not enough. The adage should be changed to "Testing is Succeeding."

African violets, after all, are very much like human beings. A balanced diet is essential to both. Where human beings are concerned, a doctor prepares a diet scientifically, and, in most cases the desired result is obtained.

Why, then, should you go on guessing about your violets' diet? Be your own Soil-doctor. Give your plants a balanced diet, and watch them grow beautifully for you. Ours did for us, and in view of our experience, our reply to the original question, "MUST WE GUESS?" must be a very emphatic . . . "NO"!

## BROKEN LEAF

Ruth F. Anderson, Iowa

Many times choice leaves received through the mail will be broken or cracked. If handled carefully and the broken or cracked parts are placed and a piece of adhesive tape is pressed across the break -- with gentle handling your prize stands a good chance to heal over and produce plants.

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Fine, healthy, state inspected, giant size violets out of two inch pots full of bloom and buds. We have thousands of satisfied customers. 175 varieties to choose from.

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10 assorted	50 cents each
25 assorted	35 cents each
100 assorted	30 cents each
1000 assorted	25 cents each

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**FLUORESCENT FIXTURES** -- enameled steel -- uses two 48 inch, 40 watt lamps, \$13.90 each or three for \$40.00. High power factor, UL approved, industrial type.

**TIMER CLOCKS** to control lighting automatically. Model 1 for permanent installation, \$10.50, Model P, portable, with attachment cord and plug-in receptacle \$13.50. UL approved, fully guaranteed.

**THREE TIER STAND** -- made of gleaming, non-rusting ALUMINUM, with three welded aluminum trays, 19½ x 51½ x ¾ inches, for above fixtures. Introductory price \$49.50, complete, ready to assemble. **ALUMINUM TRAYS**, welded corners, any size. Send measurements for prices. Window tray 5 x 26 x ¾ inches, \$2.19.

All supplies F.O.B. Wausau, Wisconsin

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The long awaited F-1 Hybrid  
African Violet Seed

\$2.00 package

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We Specialize in

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TONKADALE GREENHOUSES

R. G. Anderson

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ROUTE 3

HOPKINS, MINN.



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These lovely plants growing under fluorescent lights -- Latest Varieties -- No Shipping.

### ALICE'S VIOLET RACKS

11141 Morang

Detroit 24, Michigan



## AFRICAN VIOLETS IN THE HOME

Cont. from Page 18

Selenate is recommended for control of the mite, and a stock solution of 1 gram (about  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoonful) of sodium selenate to a quart of water is made up. A pint of this stock solution is diluted to a gallon for use on the plants. One ounce of this diluted solution is applied to a three inch pot, or two ounces to a four inch pot. On nematodes, Messrs. Hickman and Culbert give up, like every one else does, and recommend prevention rather than cure. They recommend moist heat soil sterilization, the temperature being measured by a roasting thermometer inserted in the coolest part of the soil while it is being heated. They are a little extreme, demanding 180 degrees temperature for thirty minutes in the center of the soil, instead of the more usual 140 or 160 degrees.

In spite of the authors' determination to suppress their own individual techniques in favor of more general or orthodox methods, little individual quirks crop out every now and then, and in every case these unintentional references indicate that the individuals know and enjoy their own African violet growing from a practical, sympathetic, down to earth point of view. They recommend, for example, the higher priced water soluble or hydroponic type of fertilizers, but say that ordinary garden fertilizers can be used if desired. In the latter case, they suggest that the fertilizer be left in the water several hours so that as much as possible will be dissolved before the solution is used. This is simple and logical, but personally I had overlooked this little point and for me this one suggestion justified the entire book. Careful scrutiny of the pamphlet shows half a dozen such obvious but valuable pointers, so that while the pamphlet pretends to be an elementary treatise for beginners, it serves very adequately as a check list or cross reference for the more experienced amateur.

Circular 695 can be obtained from the University of Illinois, Agriculture Department, Information Office, Urbana, Illinois. Residents of Illinois can obtain this circular free by writing for it; for the rest of us the charge is 10¢ per copy and it is a rare bargain at the price.

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Newest varieties as they become available. The latest and standard varieties now. Blooming size plants. \$1 — \$2.25 each. My collection 500 varieties. (Do not mail).

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STIM-U-PLANT FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS is a sensational new food, developed and formulated after several years of research. Used by commercial growers with glowing results. Feed it to your African Violets to promote beautiful growth and blooms.

Packaged in very attractive 3-ounce can. So simple to use! Each can contains enough plant food to make approximately 60 quarts of rich liquid African Violet food. Being soluble, its results are noticed quickly. Two 3-ounce cans \$1.00 post paid. Order today.

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### AFRICAN VIOLET SEED

- 1-A mixture 300 seeds \$1.00
- 11-E mixture, crosses of many varieties having girl type foliage 300 seeds \$2.00
- 6-D mixture, good doubles crossed on good singles, produces approximately 50 per cent doubles or semi doubles 150 seeds \$2.00
- 8-B our best mixture, 300 seeds \$3.00

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*S. grotei* (climber) and *S. magungensis* (creeper). Also *S. tongwensis* and *S. orbicularis*. These species ready for shipment after April 15. Healthy vigorous plants from 2-inch pots @ \$2.50 each. 50¢ extra if mailed via air.

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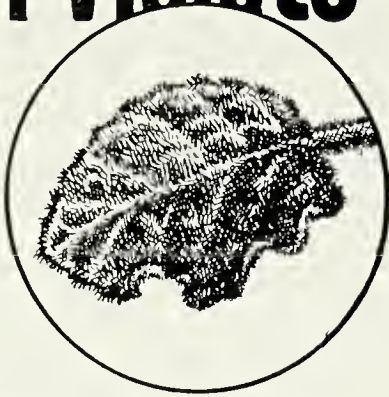
BOX 20-M FENTON, MICHIGAN



Cont. from Page 42

## Don't take chances with your African Violets

Tiny insects make leaves curl, plants shrivel and blooms stop. Quick-acting Marvel Spray gives the protection every plant needs.



Don't wait for drooping, curling or dropping leaves, or small white cotton masses, to warn you that your Saintpaulias are insect infested!

Chances are that by the time you discover these minute pests it will be too late. For mealy bugs are less than one-fifth of an inch long. And the devastating cyclamen mite and broad mite are *invisible* to the naked eye! They feed on the lower side of the leaf and frequent the junction of leaf and stalk. But they are easily and quickly controlled by Marvel Spray from famous Ogen Laboratories.

As Marvel Spray is an ovacide, it penetrates the waxy shells of these insidious enemies of the African Violet. It is immediately effective and a great time saver! Yet Marvel Spray, which also is used for Gardenias, Ivy and other indoor plants, is non-poisonous to humans and household pets. Highly concentrated (125 to 1), it is so economical any plant lover can afford this protection.

Get Marvel Spray from your garden or hardware store. If your dealer can't supply you, send \$1 for large 4-oz. can—postpaid. Also free new folder "How to Grow African Violets." Write today. Rose Mfg. Co. (Makers of Tri-Ogen—World's Largest-Selling Group of "Rose Growers"). 514-33 Ogen Bldg. Beacon, N. Y.

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NEW -- Variegated foliage, flowers white with light blue edge. **\$2.50**

### "HOLLY"

Outstanding dark green wavy foliage, medium blue flowers. **\$2.00**

Many new and older varieties

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**PLANTS**

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Visitors always welcomed

"Ferne for African Violets"

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And then comes a long letter from Leonard K. Brewer, of Wyandotte, Michigan on his problems and experiments with violets which I read with great interest. His main interest is growing violets from seed and finds that you soon run out of room (who doesn't?), but then let me quote him -- "I have been trying to get someone to admit that they throw lots of seedlings away, but so far, no one will confess. As for me, I am trying to get rid of my mature plants and leaf cuttings to make room for my seedlings." Unquote. Well fellows, there must be some more of you with this same problem. Who will we hear from? Leonard also tells me that he has developed two seedlings that he considers good. One of them is a nice "smooth" red-violet color and is a good bloomer. The other one has a white background, with a dark blue band all around it, blue eyes and sometimes the blue extends into the eye from an individual petal. It grows flat, with lovely medium shade green leaves and is a very excellent bloomer, and the flowers are large. He says it attracts everyone's attention. He further states that he is interested in Grotei and Magungensis. His first seedlings on these varieties are coming along and are proving most interesting. The Magungensis seedlings grow very rapidly but Grotei is very, very slow. Seems that these seedlings just sit around. Says he will have to experiment further. Most of his plants are grown in his basement under two fluorescent fixtures. These are the standard 48" -- two 40 watt tube, reflector type. He is proud to say that all his supplies, and the fluorescents were purchased out of neighborhood sales of his plants. Space does not permit me to continue with his letter, but I do want to mention he believes he has discovered a way to overcome crown rot, and in a future issue I'll tell you about his discovery.

Another letter from a retired dentist, W. H. Nugent, of Fort Worth, Texas, is very interesting and this too will have to wait for another issue to give you his story.

Don't forget to write me, fellows, for it is your letters that will keep this column going.

## "TELL YOU WHERE"

See page 4

**AFRICAN VIOLET LOVERS WRITE US THAT THEY ARE ENJOYING AMAZING SUCCESS WITH S P R O U T**

**THE ALL VEGETABLE ORGANIC COMPOST SOIL CONDITIONER. SO EASY TO USE.**

If your dealer can't supply you we will mail you Post Paid, 2 lbs. for \$1.00 or 20 lbs. for \$5.00

**S P R O U T**

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BRENTWOOD 17, MO.



## HISTORY OF THE SAINTPAULIA

Cont. from Page 15

a large part of their library was destroyed during the bombing of Berlin in World War II she had to seek help elsewhere. Frau von de Mulbe mentioned that she and her husband lost almost all of their possessions during the war and the years following and that her relatives who were settled in East Prussia also lost their possessions.

Returning to Walter von Saint Paul we note that he is the author of several publications. The following series deals with the colonies *Suaheli-handbuch* 1890, *Suaheli-sprachfuhrer* 1896 and *Wie Machen Wir Unsere Kolonien Rentable*. He died in Berlin-Steglitz on December 12, 1940.

Part 2 of the *History of Saintpaulia* will be concerned with Ulrich von Saint Paul-Illaire to whom Walter first sent African violet plants.

African Violet Specialists. Visitors welcome anytime. Colors of the rainbow in large and small plants including Rose'onnas.

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**Orlyt GREENHOUSE**  
This Model \$395.

Excellent for Growing African Violets  
or Anything Else You Choose

Made in sections ready for simple assembly with bolts and screws . . . Easy-to-put-up anywhere, anytime. Orlyt shown 10 by 11 ft. is ready to put on your foundation. Five other basic models including Lean-tos and Greenhouses with straight sides priced from \$175 to \$780. Automatic heat and ventilation at reasonable prices. Convenient terms. Write for Booklet No. 59.

New Book: How To Grow RARE Greenhouse Plants 260 flowering varieties  
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Please send all remittances for dues to the treasurer. Do not send them to the editor of your magazine. Make checks payable to AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA.



# **HYPONEX**

**Grows Better Plants Faster  
In SOIL, SAND or WATER**

Simply dissolve and water all your houseplants, garden flowers, vegetables, shrubs or lawn. Produces stronger plants, more and larger flowers and fruit. Excellent for starting seedlings, cuttings, transplants. Clean, odorless. Won't burn foliage or roots if used as directed. Contains all nutritional elements complete and balanced—plus vitamin B1—Instantly available. Results sure.



If your dealer can't supply you send \$1 for 1 lb. can postpaid. Makes 100 gallons

**HYDROPONIC Chemical Co., Inc. Copley, O**

While traveling between Buffalo and Rochester plan to stop and see our  
**AFRICAN VIOLETS  
OVER 300 VARIETIES**

**MRS. ELROY E. CONIBER**

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WE DO NOT SHIP

## **PROTECTION STRIP**

**DESIGNED FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS  
AND HANGING PLANTS**

Violets are more attractive, when foliage is protected from pot rim damage. Our strip is easily applied. No adhesion required. Fits any clay pot. Send 25 cents in coin for 48 inch length. It will please you.

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### **African Violet Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors.**

Complete information for judges and holding shows, scale of points, as well as valuable information for everyone entering plants in a show.

75c Each mailing included.

**RUTH G. CAREY**

706 Garden Ave.  
FOUNTAIN CITY, TENN.

## **KEY TO SUCCESS**

## **PERSERVERANCE**

Cont. from Page 29

There was a section of the Washington Evening Star that was headed "Readers Clearing House," and at that time there was a lot in it about African violets. So much in fact, that a few months later they had to take plants out entirely. I read all I could find, and gave up the magazines I had subscribed to for years, to take garden magazines. There was an item in the paper of someone wanting to exchange violet leaves. That was in October and as I happened to have the desired leaves I answered. I was taken over to Maryland and made my first exchange. At the same time I saw a Gloxinia for the first time. It was in bloom and was lovely. The lady gave me a leaf to root. I took the leaf home and put it in a glass of water and forgot about it until later I came across it and found it had a tiny bulb. I had to water my plants of course, as I wanted them to grow, and I began to do more as time went on.

I read about Round Robins, also the National Society and called up Mr. Gottshall for information about joining. I became a member in November or rather sent my dues in November 10th, 1949. I joined the first Robin in December too.

Then I really began to be busy. I would read in a Robin about doing this that and the other and had to try all of them out. I bought seeds from Friendly Gardens in September and from Parks too. Not knowing anything about the plants -- African violets were all the same to me. So when I saw them advertised I would buy a few here and there, and so the end of the year came . . . and a lot of things had been packed into that short space of time.

All through the winter I had leaves rooting and in January 1950 I really got a good start. The lady I exchanged with sent me a letter with a card enclosed. She wrote she thought I might be interested. The card was about the ad she had in the Star, and one she hadn't cared to follow up. I wrote to the writer of the card and the lady called me up the day she got my letter, told me she was going to Florida and she was selling all her plants. On the following Sunday my son took me over as the lady lived in Maryland. What I saw was a revelation. I saw violets of every description -- that was an experience to me -- as what little growing I had done so far had been "blind growing." Three different colored violets blooming in a long glass refrigerator jar. Girl leaves which of course I had never seen before, impressed me greatly and for that matter they still do. Leaves rooting in fish bowls also plants in all stages of growth. Of course it was impossible for me to remember all the different types of leaves and plants. But I bought some



plants I had read about and that was a big thing in my life then. I hadn't time to think about my home I had to give up, all the things that filled my life previously, the organizations to which I belonged and now could not attend. After I got home with those plants, the more I thought of what I had left behind, the more I wanted them. So during the next week I called the lady and told her I would like to have a few more. Imagine my surprise when she offered me all the plants she had left for a small sum. I told her I would take them. When we went to get them the lady said she knew I would care for them, that was why she offered them to me. So in that way I acquired almost 100 plants and leaves rooting. At that time I didn't realize just what I had gotten, but many times since then I have realized the full value of what I received.

Then, when I got all the plants home another problem faced us. Where was I going to put all those plants? The house was small, and no where was there room for them. We fixed up a long table in the living room and put them on it for the time being, and there they stayed the rest of the winter.

During December 1949 I joined my first Robin with Mrs. Sophia Baker as Director and subsequently I was put in a Pigeon of the National Society. Before I knew it I was directing Robins and have been directing them ever since. There are some wonderful people in the flower world in which we dwell and we meet many of them via the Robins and Pigeons. There is a certain amount of time and effort spent with this correspondence, but my impression is we are fully rewarded.

During the first part of that year, I tried many things as I had to be governed by what I read. I had no one close at hand with whom I could talk violets or ask advice -- I was strictly on my own. The sun room went up, and I had dreams of glorious times in it. I read about making a Wardian case in Home Garden Magazine so I acquired three of them to root leaves in. I tried so many things, discarding some, using others. We had the sun room built with 11 large windows and a glass door and a wide ledge running all around at the bottom of the windows. I began to put glass shelves at them with the idea of having them at each window. I was able to shade the sun off with the Venetian blinds. The room was 15 feet by 16 feet and how I enjoyed it for the short time I had it, and how the plants grew. I kept the cases full of leaves all the time and what a thrill I would get when the baby leaves appeared.

But all this was too good to last and the bomb fell and knocked the bottom out of everything. My son-in-law was transferred and they would move away to another city. Where was I going with all my plants? This was in July, so I decided to go to my youngest daughter in Arlington, Virginia about seven miles away. But they had no place for my plants except the basement and I knew nothing about fluorescent lights at that time. If only I had I would have been saved many

SUNSET Magazine says  
"Fish Emulsion is outstanding"

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The African Violet Club  
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Chattanooga  
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Cordially Invite  
All African Violet Society Members  
to an  
Open House  
At The Club House  
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This invitation is extended to Society members who will be passing through Chattanooga on their way to the Spring Convention in Nashville. The Club will serve light refreshments and will afford a nice lounge, rest rooms and telephones. The Club is located just a block from the shopping center and just three blocks from the bus and train terminals.



headaches. We decided a small green house would be just right, and I thought it would be wonderful to have one. So I ordered an Orlyt 13, with the understanding it would be here on a certain date. But ordering one and getting one is quite a different proposition. It didn't arrive as promised, so when I moved in August the plants had to be put into the basement, which they resented, and quickly showed it by dying off.

The Orlyt was ready for them by October and we put what was left of them in. Over 150 had died . . . so many baby plants and all the leaves

that were rooting. If I had been a veteran I probably could have saved them, but I knew so little about them. Then we hit another snag. The heaters that came were not vented and the code here says they have to be vented, so they had to be returned. The cold weather was drawing nearer all the time. I began to cover the plants at night with layers of newspapers and they got along alright until November 11th when the temperature went down to 20°. When I uncovered them they were a sight to behold! Most of them black. I went for my daughter, as the greenhouse is 100 feet from the house. When she saw them I told her I was going to lock the Orlyt up and try to forget about them. She said No! But I didn't want any more of them—it is hard to describe just how I felt. They had done so much for me and helped to fill the void left when my husband passed on, and now they were gone. But my daughter brought them all into the basement. They fixed two tables and packed them all on to them. I had mentioned people using fluorescent lights in the basements and what good results there had been -- so my son-in-law not knowing any details went out and bought three lights, and fixed them over the tables. I wasn't even interested in their activities. I felt stunned. A short time later my daughter asked me to take a look at the plants, so I went down, and I was amazed at what I saw. There were tiny specks showing on so many of them. I had a number of Gloxinia seedlings and they were really coming up -- even better than the violets. After that I began to go and look at them daily and when I saw the effort they were making, the thought came, "How could I desert them now."

So, I began again, and I learned later the lights were not right. They were 20 watt tubes, two in each fixture and recently I have found out they were diffused lights. So one can see they were anything but what the experts say we should use.

I had a few pods from my own plants so decided to try growing them. I put them in my room which has a temperature of 70° all the time. After they germinated and I transplanted them which I have learned to do 16 days after they germinate, I put cinder blocks on the table with boards across them so I could put the pots close to the lights. I found they grew like wildfire. One couldn't wish for more of better growing. So, in that way the rest of the cold weather passed. I had my son-in-law put both lights over one table and I used them that way, but still they were only 20 watt tubes. I have read since then, that Gloxinias do not do well under the lights but mine did. They grew into lovely plants and I had 4½ and 5 inch blooms from them later.

In May we moved the plants into the Orlyt and although they were all so young they kept on growing. I wonder just what is the power these darling plants have over people? I just got so busy I hardly had the chance to even think about what had gone before, and in July and August I began to have blooms. I put more leaves down in July that seemed to root in no time at all, and

## VIOLET TREASURE HOUSE

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Send for new price list issued February 1953. Cuttings available in all but the very latest of these.

**ALMA WRIGHT** — double white. Mrs. Wright offering \$25.00 cash award for best plant of this variety brought to 1953 Convention.

**BLUE FAIRY TALE** — see page 68, September issue Violet Magazine.

**BLUE OHIO** — huge blooms; supple foliage. Outstanding.

**FANTASY SUPREME** — just perfectly beautiful.

**FROSTY** — variegated foliage that reproduces true variegated.

**GIANT LAVENDER GIRL** — simply huge big blooms.

**GIRL AT DAWN** — broad flowers color of Purple Dawn.

**HOLLY** — Ferne outdid herself on this foliage.

**INSPIRATION** — Violet Beauty Supreme. Lovely.

**KING NEPTUNE** — one of the most strikingly gorgeous ever propagated. This is the Amazon version of Double Neptune.

**LUCKY LADY SUPREME** — huge white; clean-cut, clear blue edging.

**ORCHID WONDER AMAZON** — a superb mate for Sunrise Supreme.

**ORIENTAL** — breath taking even when not in bloom. Each leaf spooned, deep forest green bowl with rolled-over border of mulberry wine. Bright vivid blue blooms.

**PINK ATTRACTION** — fine new pink just released by Ulery. Not the same as Pink Wonder which will not be released before June.

**PINK GIRL AMAZON** — huge deep pink flowers; firm textured.

**PRIMROSE** — West Side's version of Rose Lady; big white, marked. All the fine new pinks and outstanding reds.

## PEP-O-PLANT

IDEAL FOOD for House Plants

Especially suited for African violets

Rich in Plant Vitamins

6 oz. bottle added to water

makes 42 quarts

50¢ per bottle postpaid

LECLERCQ COMPANY

Box 3015

Minneapolis 10, Minn.



really enjoyed potting them and seeing the new little plants. All this time the heat for the Orlyt had been in the offing but it was getting time to think about it. We had exchanged the heaters for the right kind, and by October 10th they were installed (at a great expense) and lit.

What happened then, I do not like to dwell upon as I try my best to forget the unpleasant things of life. But this was before me day after day. I couldn't stay in there long enough to water the plants. The Gloxinias which were just beginning to bloom and were lovely plants, died overnight. All the blooms on the violets fell off -- even the unopened buds. The leaves began to die and I tried to find out what was the cause. I found the plumber hadn't put any air in-take pipes in, so I called him and asked him about it. He said he would come and fix them, but it took him 2 weeks to get here -- he did put pipes in -- but still they kept dying. So I called the Chief Plumbing Inspector and told him about it. He had been here previously about the heaters as they had never installed any of these heaters previously, and they had to be installed, not according to the Manufacturers plans, but according to the codes in this community. When he saw the effect of the code installation, he at once called the Chief Heating Engineer and they worked out what should be done about it. In other words the only thing that could be done was to follow the Manufacturers instructions, so they proceeded to do just that, and by December 10th the heat was put in right. My plants were chemically poisoned by the combustion from the burned gas and lack of oxygen. Knowing all that didn't give me back the plants I had lost. I kept taking off dead leaves until the good sized plants were nothing but a stalk.

In January, after days had gone by I thought they looked better but after about 5 days they looked worse than ever, so I told my daughter I was giving up. I could not see any sense in going on. She said since I had that much money involved I shouldn't give up. I told her it wasn't the money -- it was the results of my efforts that meant so much to me. I do not care how hard I work on anything just as long as I get some kind of results. She said, "Luther Burbank worked 25 years over a tomato." What could I say to that? But I told her I wasn't going to bother any more. It so happened a neighbor who moved here in August -- and I had recently met -- came over for the first time that day. She loves and grows violets and has some lovely ones. She said, "Try what I do." I asked what is that? She said, "Give them some lime." So that afternoon, and as I had an unopened bag of ground limestone, I smothered all the plants with it, and I mean smothered. It was a kill or cure gesture, as I didn't care the way I was feeling. It rained for two or three days afterwards, and as I do not give the plants much water when it is raining, I let the limestone stay on. The heaters were working fine and I could get the desired temperature in the Orlyt. When the weather cleared up I began to syringe

## PLANTSMITHS SPOONIT

The CAN'T-BE-BEAT-FOOD

For African Violets

Send post card for information about my generous trial offer.

PLANTSMITH

Box 818A

Palo Alto, Calif.

## AFRICAN VIOLETS

Old and new varieties of plants, leaves, potted cuttings and seed. Write for new price list.

MRS. T. C. BEE

RT. No. 3

NEWNAN, GA.

## SEL-KAPS

### SODIUM SELENATE IN CAPSULES

A new and thoroughly reliable method for the control of Mite, Mealy Bug, Cyclamen Mite, Red Spider, Aphids and pests that attack African violets. Sodium Selenate is a poisonous material which when absorbed by the plant, kills the insect.

SAFE, RELIABLE. 18 CAPSULES \$1.25 post paid.

STIMUPLANT LAB. CO.

BOX 1955

COLUMBUS 16, OHIO

## SAY IT WITH VIOLETS

African violet leaves, shipped anywhere. Drop a card for new price list featuring "THE NEWEST OF THE NEW AND BEST OF THE OLD" Including "Frosty" New variegated yellow and green foliage.

Propagates true

THE VIOLET HOUSE

E. PEARLE TURNER

828 KENMORE BLVD.

AKRON 14, OHIO



## AFRICAN VIOLETS

LEAVES

PLANTS

New and older varieties. List.

**MARGARET L. CLELAND**

1163 River Road

Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada

HALFWAY BETWEEN RAINBOW BRIDGE AND  
WHIRLPOOL RAPIDS BRIDGE

*Karl Von Mueller's*

## AFRICAN VIOLET MANUAL AND DIRECTORY

The Omnibook of African Violet Culture

14 Chapters — Over 70 Illustrations

THE BEGINNERS BIBLE

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**TELLS ALL!!!!**

- Feeding and Watering Secrets
- History of The Plant
- Washing and Cleaning
- Varieties
- Propagation
- Potting Mixtures, Simplified
- Pests and Diseases
- Trouble Charts and What to Do
- Directory Section Tells Where to Buy Plants and Supplies.

A BOOK TO REFER TO WHEN YOU  
NEED HELP!

ONLY \$1.25 POSTPAID

**DEAN MILLER**

BOX 178

BELLFLOWER 1, CALIFORNIA

## EXCITING NEW VARIETIES

## AFRICAN VIOLETS

SAVE MONEY -- ENJOY WATCHING  
THE BABIES GROW. SEND TODAY FOR  
LEAF LIST. ALL AVAILABLE AND  
CORRECTLY NAMED. IMMEDIATE AT-  
TENTION.

## NAOMI'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

141 Holley St.

Brockport, N. Y.

NOTE: HOUSE-GROWN PLANTS SOLD IN ALL  
SIZES AT THE ROOMS, BUT ONLY LEAF-CUT-  
TINGS MAILED.

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME  
EXCEPT ON WEDNESDAYS

the lime off with a bulb syringe I have. I wanted to get the lime off to see what the plants looked like afterwards. So each day I would do it and in a week or so, I noticed the leaves were looking firmer. That urged me to keep on, although I was still taking leaves off. Now I have no regrets. I lost over 400 plants but I still have a lot, and I can grow more. What plants I have all have to grow up again but one of my seedlings is blooming -- and I find buds here and there amongst them. I am almost in the same place I was when I started out, and as the time element means so much to me, I regret the loss of time. Also I lost so many plants I really wanted to keep.

I am interested now in all the other Gesneriaceae and had bought plants to have a start of several of them. I am beginning to feel a little proud of my plants. The State Inspector was here yesterday and told me my plants looked good, and commended me for bringing them through such a seige. There are still leaves to come off as I find the poison has done something to the base of the leaves where they join the plant. It looks like they are scarred and if you touch them they separate from the plant. I have learned a lot of things through all this trying time and one of them is the secret of patience is doing something in the meantime. Some of the plants are growing a lot of crowns -- Diana, which was lovely and in bloom was reduced to just a stalk. One day I noticed a speck of green on it. I put a glass over it and now I have taken three plants from it which have already rooted, and there are three more on it. Some look like palms in a desert -- long trunks with a few leaves at the very top!

All this has done something to me -- I just cannot get as enthused as I did before -- but the most wonderful thing of all is the kindness of the violet lovers. They are so generous with what they have and I am so grateful for their generosity!

I have kept a list of all the plants and leaves that have been sent to me and which I appreciate fully. The only thing is, that so many have been lost through really no fault of mine. But it is these things that makes this world of ours go round. Only recently I received two plants as a gift. I wanted Christina which I had lost, and wanted to continue crosses I had. The package came and Christina and Velvet Girl were there. Velvet Girl is still blooming and greets me every morning when I go into the Orlyt -- Christina has a bud. I try to repay them by giving my plants to some one. Everybody that comes to see me takes a plant home. There is a lot more I could write about all this, but I think this story has a moral. When life seems empty and there seems nothing ahead for you, try raising African violets. Your life will soon be full!

What the next chapter will be remains to be seen. Now I have a propagator and have to learn how to use it. I say now it was an INSPIRATION that prompted me to buy those violets in the first place, and one cannot help but think "God moves in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform."



# Nashville Council

Last year the ladies of the African Violet Clubs of Davidson County were keenly disappointed when their invitation to hold the 1952 National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee arrived at the Convention too late to be considered. They were determined to do something about it and remembering the old adage, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again," they went to work.

The more active members of the six African Violet Clubs of Davidson County hit upon the brilliant idea of forming a council of these clubs and thus have a strong organization to present an invitation to the African Violet Society of America, Inc., to hold their Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1953.

As far as we know this Council is the only one of its kind in existence.

As you all, no doubt, know by this time, their efforts met with enthusiastic approval in Chicago last April and the Convention is scheduled for Nashville, April 30, May 1 and 2, 1953.

This Council has for its officers, Mrs. W. C. Dalton, president; Mrs. T. M. Smoot, vice-president; Mrs. Ralph Wheatley, secretary and Mrs. J. I. Sally, corresponding secretary. Two elected representatives and the president of each club constitute the members of the Council. These ladies hold quarterly meetings and discuss the business of the clubs and of course our main business at present is the coming Convention.

Two quarterly luncheon meetings have been held for all members of the Davidson County African Violet Clubs and they have proved so successful in bringing the ladies together in a closer bond of fellowship and in exchanging ideas about the do's and don'ts of raising African violets, that the Council is going forward with more elaborate plans for the future.

At these meetings, one club makes arrangements and decorates for the luncheon and another club presents a program.

The first luncheon was held shortly after the close of the Convention in Chicago. The Woodmont Club had charge of arrangements for the program and Mrs. B. F. Ford, president, introduced Mrs. Sam Nichols of the Nashville Club, who had arranged for a discussion of the Convention by club members who had attended it.

Mrs. L. C. Gross, of the Nashville club spoke on the programs at the Convention; Mrs. Alex Taylor, who is a member of the board of directors of the National organization and a member of the First Saintpaulia Society of Nashville, gave some highlights of the board meeting. Mrs. E. S.

Pruett, Nashville club, discussed the commercial displays of African violets; Mrs. J. A. Pittman, of First Saintpaulia told of the interesting people she met and Mrs. Sam Nichols reported on the amateur African violet show.

The Donelson African Violet Club had charge of the arrangements for the luncheon and the decorations for this meeting.

The next luncheon meeting was equally as informative and interesting. The Inglewood Club had charge of this program. Mrs. W. D. Schmultz, chairman of the committee, arranged a panel of African violet experts who answered questions asked by the ladies present. Mrs. Alex Taylor was the moderator and Mrs. J. I. Sally, Woodmont; Mrs. Charles Bradley, Donelson; Mrs. E. I. Tuck, First Saintpaulia; Mrs. W. F. Moores, Inglewood; Mrs. Gordon Turner, Melrose and Mrs. L. C. Gross, Nashville, made up the panel.

When Floyd Johnson, president of our African Violet Society of America came to Nashville in the fall to make arrangements for the 1953 Convention he notified our Council president, Mrs. Dalton, and asked her to meet with him. When he was called upon to appoint a chairman of the Convention he said, "The situation is made to order, the president of the Council, is the logical chairman of the Convention." Upon appointing Mrs. Dalton general chairman, Mr. Johnson left the appointment of the various committees in her very capable hands.

After much thought and careful consideration Mrs. Dalton has appointed the following chairmen:

Mrs. Ralph Wheatley, will be Co-Chairman of the Convention; Mrs. L. C. Gross, Nashville, Amateur Show; Mrs. J. A. Pittman, First Saintpaulia, Registration; Mrs. Charles Bradley, Donelson, Hospitality; Mrs. J. I. Sally, Woodmont, Classification; Miss Genevieve Boggs, First Saintpaulia, Tours; Mrs. Ralph Wheatley, Publicity.

Mrs. Dalton says she will complete her list of Committee Chairmen in the near future.

Of course we all know that no Convention would be complete without our beloved Mrs. Arthur Radtke, who is the official representative of the National Organization and has spearheaded most of the past Conventions. Mrs. James B. Carey of Fountain City, Tennessee, we all remember as the gracious and talented lady who was chairman of our first committee on Judges and Staging Shows and is the author of "The African Violet Handbook on Judging," is our Program Chairman and she and her committee are



making plans for a program that will surpass all previous conventions in entertainment, information and surprises!

Due to the efforts of our Council we were able to bring Mrs. Carey to Nashville on the 30th of September at which time she conducted a course in African Violet judging.

Thirty-six members of the African Violet Clubs of Davidson County attended this school which was held at the Hermitage Hotel in Nashville. During the morning session Mrs. Carey lectured on how to put on an African Violet Show. After luncheon she gave talks on judging African violets between periods of questions which she gave most informative answers.

## AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

Please use the green forms for new memberships and renewals. If you have not received your supply please write your Affiliated Chapter Chairman, Mrs. E. G. Magill, 707 S. 4th St., Aurora, Illinois for information. Chapters must use these forms as it helps simplify membership records.

## 1953 CONVENTION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

APRIL 30, MAY 1 AND 2

Make your reservation early — plan to bring a plant for the show.

## THE AFRICAN VIOLET

A favorite house plant I hope to stay,  
So please take care of me in this way . . .  
A drink of tepid water I like from below,  
But don't get me too wet, or I will rot you know.  
I like tinfoil or paraffin on the rims of the pot,  
To rest my pretty leaves on so they won't rot.  
And when dirty and dusty I seem,  
A warm bath or brushing will make me shining clean.  
Always use sterilized soil to repot—  
Plant food, once every two weeks, will help me a lot.  
The air can't be dry, it is humidity that I like,  
Temperatures between 65 and 75 degrees is just right.  
Then place me where there is plenty of light,  
And I will grow and blossom to your delight.  
Then when you enter me in a flower show,  
And see the ribbons I win, you'll be happy, I know.

Mae B. Luke

Copyright, 1952, by Carl E. Luke

## HOBBY — AFRICAN VIOLETS

Have I got violets? I'll say I have!  
I'd like the world to know,  
They're growing all over the house,  
I've got them high and low.  
I've got them in my living room, den and bedrooms,  
Bathroom and basement too,  
The colors are many and varied,  
With shades of red, white and blue.  
Please understand, I'm not complaining  
About the violets all over the house,  
I have saved a place on one of my shelves  
For my cat to watch for a mouse.  
I love my violets dearly,  
And watch over each and every one,  
My pleasure is a hundred fold,  
With the waking of each morning sun.  
Helen Potruff

It is true about the cat at Mrs. Kent's house. She has a place for it right next to her violets on the shelf, and people passing by can see both through the window.

## SYMPTOMS

Heeding advice of the experts?—  
Sifting some rich healthy loam,  
Adding the sand that is needed;  
Making a green house of home?  
Using leaf mold, superphosphate;  
Buying charcoal or bone meal;  
Scrubbing up pots? -- you're not kidding—  
You have "Saintpaulia Appeal!"

Grace Hartley



## MY VIOLETS

What a thrill it is each morning,  
To walk around and see—  
My lovely, lovely violets  
Smiling up at me.  
They sit upon my window sills,  
With heads held proudly high—  
Where guests can see them clearly,  
And you should hear them sigh.  
Their sighs of admiration  
Repay me for my toil  
Of potting, watering feeding—  
And sterilizing soil.  
I love each precious one of them,  
The whites, the pinks, the blues,  
But do not leave unnoticed  
The many other hues.  
There's dainty Apple Blossom,  
By Sky Blue and Twilight—  
With Snow Prince and Pink Beauty  
They make a wondrous sight.  
Blue Girl Supreme looks splendid—  
Beside my Painted Girl,  
And what could top Blue Wonder,  
When it's blossoms once unfurl?  
I can't describe the beauty  
Of each and every one,  
And they are all there smiling  
When my daily work is done.

D. Hook

## TO AID YOU

We are African violets, and  
We're not too hard to grow;  
So if you'll follow directions,  
You'll have no cause for woe.  
A little water now and then —  
A bit of plant food too,  
Then you will find we'll be so glad  
To put forth bloom for you.  
But only water twice a week—  
Unless you're SURE we're dry;  
For too much dampness makes us droop,  
And we'll rot away and die.  
For food just give us Hyponex,  
But follow directions, please!  
Don't overfeed us anytime,  
And mind keep water off our leaves.  
We like a lot of light, you see,  
But -- never the hot sun;  
We don't like drafts a tiny bit,  
So see that we get none.  
A north or east exposure  
Is really our delight,  
And if you'll give us one of these,  
We'll bloom with all our might!

D. Hook

## — GESNERIACEAE —

We have built a considerable reputation as specialists in the choice Tropical Flowering Gesneriads and are offering several new ones this year. If you have not received our 1953 list, please write for it.

We are always happy to have our many friends visit us. Phone us when you are in Miami. Please remember that our nursery is closed Sunday morning and all day Tuesday.

## FANTASTIC GARDENS

R. G. WILSON

9550 S. W. 67th Avenue  
SOUTH MIAMI 43, FLORIDA

## 1953 CONVENTION NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

April 30, May 1 and 2

## EDENA GARDENS

Three Charming Girls  
CHEERIO, EDENA HONEY and CHOLITA  
and  
MARIPOSA, FONTANA, AIDA, and  
FLORENCITA

Carolyn Rectors newest releases introduced exclusively by Edena Gardens. Orders accepted for leaves and plants for early summer delivery.

WRITE FOR LIST

E. H. THOMAS

461 Bridge Road

Walnut Creek, California



# On Being President

The joys of being president are few and far between. Her job is something like a football in a big game. First one side has it and then the other.

If she writes a letter, it is too long. If she sends a postal, it is too short. If she issues a pamphlet, she is a spend-thrift. If she attends committee meetings, she is intruding. If she stays away, she is a shirker.

If she attempts to safeguard the interests of the association she wants to run everything. If she doesn't, she is letting the association go to the dogs. If the attendance at meetings is slim, she should have had her committees busy. If she

has done this, she is a pest. If dues are called for, she is insulting. If they aren't collected, she is to blame. If she is in a good humor, she is frivolous. If she isn't she is a sorehead.

If the program is a huge success, the program committee is praised. If it is a failure, it was all the president's fault. If she mixes with the members, she is too familiar. If she doesn't, she is too "ritzy". If she asks for advice, she is incompetent. If she doesn't, she is bullheaded. Ashes to ashes and dust to dust, if the others won't do it, the president must.

Author Unknown

## WINDOWSILL GARDENS



WILLIAMSVILLE, N. Y.

On Rt. 5 — Outside Buffalo



KAY JOHNSON AND LUCILLE HART

Invite you to stop in their unusual shop anytime you are in the vicinity. Hundreds of blooming violets in a quaint Colonial setting are on display at all times. Not a shop in a home, but a Retail store for violets.

**CHOICEST NEW VARIETIES**

from

**THE COUNTRY'S LEADING GROWERS**

All size plants in stock

**50¢ UP**

ALSO ALL THE SUPPLIES FOR YOUR HOBBY —

Sterilized soil, Vermiculite, fertilizers, rooting powder, ceramic, plastic and clay pots.



# SOIL RECIPES FROM THE WEST COAST

Clarissa Harris, Cal.

1—

- 1/3 Sand
- 1/3 good garden soil baked 1 hour at 250 degrees
- 1/3 screened compost
- I put this in a good sized dish pan perhaps 2/3 full and add:-
  - 2 or 3 handfuls of peat moss
  - 2 handfuls of dry screened steer manure
  - 2 handfuls of bone meal
  - 2 handfuls of charcoal

Five or six years ago I started with the violets after a neighbor gave me a plant and some leaves. They did well for a time, and I increased my stock till I had about 75 plants. After a while I began having trouble, and came to the conclusion it was the Colorado River water which was killing them, as two of the large nurseries near us lost a great many plants (not violets as they were not growing them but other acid loving plants). They blamed it on the water. I gave up in discouragement, but later in November a friend sent me a copy of "Women's Day," and my former enthusiasm returned. My husband and son and daughter have urged me on so now I have many varieties and several plants of most of the varieties. Now I use rain water or aerate the faucet water and usually boil it as well.

I am in one of the National Homing Pigeon Units as well as one of the California ones, and find them very helpful as well as a great pleasure.

Mrs. C. W. English,  
Pasadena 6, Calif.

2—

- 4 parts oak leaf mold
- 1 part soil
- 2 parts redwood leaf mold
- 1 part sand
- A sprinkling of charcoal and bone meal.

My home is on a hill surrounded with trees and shrubs. The violets have four different daylight exposures and all love it.

Sophia Schultz, Los Angeles  
African Violet Society

3—

- 1 part vermiculite
- 1 part builder's sand
- 1 part rabbit manure
- 1 part Georgia peat
- 2 parts redwood leaf mold

- 4 parts Begonia compost
- 1 part Kellogg's Nitrohumus
- To bushel of this add:
  - 1 pint bonemeal
  - 1 cup superphosphate
  - 1 pint chick-size charcoal

Carolyn Rector

4—

- 4 parts leaf mold
- 2 parts sand
- 3 parts manure soil
- 1 part peat moss

Allow to season (through a season). While seasoning, pour boiling water over the mixture, also allowing winter rain to moisten. Occasionally the mixture is turned and more boiling water poured over it. After seasoning, add 2/3 cup of bone meal and 2/3 cup of charcoal to about a bushel of the above mixture. The charcoal needs a little explanation, for it is obtained from the high forest where logs have been burned. Recently I have used 3 tablespoons of Acetate to a gallon of water once every three months, and the color and quality of the plants improved unbelievably. This is not a fertilizer but an acidifying product. Hyponex is used for feeding.

Nellie Morris, Los Angeles  
African Violet Society

5—

For small violets use well rotted leaf mold. When ready to move into a 3" pot use as potting mix:

- 1/3 sharp sand
- 1/3 old manure
- 1/3 rotted leaf mold (part may be peat)
- Sterilize by pouring water over mixture. Start Mildred Nitsch, Santa Ana, Calif.

Sterilize by pouring boiling water over mixture. Start feeding Hyponex once a month. Force for bloom by adding steamed bone meal and horn shavings scratched into top soil once a month. If water is strongly alkaline, use weak tea water once a month.

6—

- 1 quart redwood leaf mold
- 1 quart soil
- 1/2 quart peat moss
- 2 tablespoons bone meal
- 2 tablespoons Nitrohumus (A local fertilizer)
- 1 pint charcoal
- 1 pint terralite

Margaret Hankins, Member of  
the Los Angeles Society





# Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor  
1920 W. 3rd. St.  
Perry, Iowa.

## OHIO VALLEY SOCIETY

The Ohio African Violet Society held its yearly display of violets at the Flower Fair, held at Oglebay Park, Wheeling, W. Virginia on June 21st and 22nd.

All members made the exhibit a success. Each brought in her best plants to be shown, which consisted of 67 varieties, 3 seedlings and 3 species.

The proceeds from the exhibit were turned over to the Garden Center of Wheeling.

As a small group this club was organized two years ago and now has 19 active members.

Newly elected officers for the coming year are:

President,	Mrs. Henry Boher
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Harry Daugherty
Secretary,	Mrs. Sidney Fox
Treasurer,	Mrs. Ruth Gardner

## SHERIDAN NEW YORK

The Sheridan African Violet Society of Sheridan, New York, held its organization meeting on September 24, 1952 at the home of Mrs. James Serio.

A constitution was adopted, and the members also voted to affiliate with the National Society. All members of the group must be members of the National Society.

Temporary officers elected were:

President,	Mrs. Charles Weinheimer
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Joseph Pagano, Jr.

## KANSAS CITY

The annual election of officers of the African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City, Missouri was held at the September meeting with the following officers elected for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. T. M. Church
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Robert Montgomery
Treasurer,	Mr. Frank L. Morgan
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Catherine Hoeft
Corres. Secy.,	Miss Elizabeth Harris
Historian,	Mrs. L. A. Smart

Meetings are held at 8 o'clock on the second Tuesday of the month in the Paseo Room of the American Legion Building. A question and answer period will be a part of each program.

## LAURENCE KANSAS

The Laurence African Violet Club of Laurence, Kansas, elected the following officers at the September meeting:

President,	Mrs. N. K. Anderson
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Charles Miller
Treasurer,	Mrs. Marion Tuttle
Secretary,	Mrs. Olive Lawson
Reporter,	Mrs. Bette Woodward

The meetings are held on the first Friday of the month at 2 p. m. in the members' homes.

## WHEATRIDGE COLORADO

The Mile Hi Saintpaulia Study group of Wheatridge, Colorado, a Denver suburb, was organized in April of 1952. The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. Agapito Atencio
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Irene Barnes
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Rita Kranz
Program Chm.,	Mrs. Estelle Knipp

Meetings are held the third Friday of the month in the members' homes.

## ENGLEWOOD COLORADO

The Friendly African Violet Club of Englewood, Colorado, a Denver suburb, was organized in October 1952 and meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the members' homes.

The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. William Campbell
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Glen Clayton
Secretary,	Mrs. Lucille Woodman

## DENVER COLORADO

The African Violet Society of Denver, Chapter 2, Region 8, held their annual election of officers at the November meeting. The newly elected officers are:

President,	Mrs. Rosemary Angelo
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Helen Shoreman

This group was organized in October 1949 and meets in the members' homes on the first Monday of the month.

## COMPTON CALIFORNIA

The Hub City Chapter of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. was organized on August 4, 1952 with nineteen present. The following temporary officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. Margaret Stone
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Irene Sechrist
Secretary,	Mrs. Fern Webster
Treasurer,	Miss Willa Snider
Program,	Mrs. Irene Sechrist

Meetings of this Compton, California group are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 123½ North Rose at 7:30 in the evening.



## LYNCHBURG VIRGINIA

The First African Violet Society of Lynchburg, Virginia, was organized on May 12, 1952. June 9th, saw the nomination and election of officers.

At the September meeting in the home of Mrs. Ned Bell, Timberlake Road, the installation of officers took place. The candle light ceremony of service and friendship was impressive and beautiful. The officers installed were:

President,	Mrs. C. C. Overacre
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ned Bell
Secretary,	Mrs. J. L. Jones
Treasurer,	Miss Florence Adams
Corres. Secy.	Mrs. W. T. Driskill
Historian,	Mrs. C. E. Fuller

## ROCKFORD ILLINOIS

The Rockford, Illinois, African Violet Club elected the following officers for 1952:

President,	Sophia Halford
Vice-Pres.,	Maybelle Rice
Secretary,	Ethel Johnson
Corres. Secy.,	Ruth Carlson
Treasurer,	Naomi Johnson
Publicity,	Margaret Cedarvall

## ST. PAUL MINNESOTA

The Lacy Girls Society of St. Paul, Minnesota, held its first African Violet Show in the Hamline Branch Library on September 23, 1952 from 12 o'clock till 8 o'clock. Several hundred persons attended the show.

Mrs. John R. Anderson was Show Chairman and Mrs. James Land is President.

Over one hundred named varieties were on display and an individual seedling collection was displayed by Mrs. Lang, with two hundred plants on display in all.

The Library provided a beautiful background for the Show. The plants in competitive classes were arranged on long tables covered with white cloths. In addition to the many individual plants exhibited, there were many interesting and attractive arrangements for special days, and others for table and mantle.

One table was centered with a what-not shelf and one dozen hand painted figurines were placed throughout the tables.

Mrs. Price, a member of the Fringette African Violet Club, also of St. Paul, demonstrated the progress of a violet from the pepper fine seed to the large blooming plant. She also answered the many questions of the visitors on propagation of violets and their seedlings.

Mr. Robert Anderson, from the Tonkadale Greenhouse, addressed the group and gave many helpful suggestions on the culture of violets, and he also displayed glazed pottery and an original display table for violets.

## SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA

The Capital City Saintpaulia Society of Sacramento, California was organized on August 18, 1952 for the benefit of a group of State workers who wanted to attend evening meetings and learn about African violets.

Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month at the Garden Center.

Officers elected are:

President,	Juanita Poisal
Vice-Pres.,	Lillian Carty
Rec. Secy.,	Ethel Van Alstyne
Treasurer,	Conrad Meyer

## DETROIT MICHIGAN

The Detroit African Violet Club of Detroit, Michigan, celebrated their first birthday, in October, 1952 with a party at the home of Mrs. John Biel.

At the September meeting the following new officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. John Aboud
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. John Biel
Treasurer,	Mrs. A. C. Foster
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Louis Biel
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Ronald Reaume

The Clubs two projects for the past year were the giving of plants to elderly people in Nursing Homes, with Mrs. A. C. Foster and Mrs. Louis Biel on the Committee. They distributed the plants and explained their care to those who received them. They also sent clothing to the Navajo Indians, Mrs. John Aboud being in charge.

Both of these projects will be continued for the coming year.

## BORDER CITIES AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

Border Cities African Violet Club has been the recipient of a very nice distinction. An African violet has been named in honor of one of our members.

Because of the keen interest and untiring efforts of Rose Lucoff, of Detroit, a little group of people with a common interest, namely African violets, was gathered together, a couple of years ago, in Detroit, Michigan to talk about the possibilities of organizing a club.

The results of that meeting and Rose's efforts are a "going" Border Cities African Violet Club AND four other clubs which have stemmed from our own. They are the Detroit African Violet Club; The Oaklandites; The Windsor Saintpaulia Society and the Windsor West African Violet Club.

Our members approached Helen Pochurek who has been a good friend and guide to us, to name one of her seedlings which is unusual and which carried only a number for identification, for Rose Lucoff.



Helen consented to name a light Rose Girl variety for Rose and decided on the name "Rose of Detroit" which she felt was appropriate from all viewpoints including the geographical identity.

Helen describes the plant as "Light Rose cupped bloom with a dark girl leaf -- Red on the reverse side -- deeply scalloped."

Besides the four clubs being formed, our group has been very active, having conducted two shows (not competitive) and clinics, two programs which were open to the public and which consisted of lectures by well known African violet authorities, distributed over a thousand African violet plants to homes for the aged and to hospitals and we now are planning our first big competitive African Violet Show for April 13, 1953 and April 14, 1953 to be held at the Ernst Kern Company auditorium, Detroit.

### TECUMSEH NEBRASKA

A show will be staged in the auditorium of the Community Building at Tecumseh on April 18, 1953, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on April 19 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Old and new violets and many seedlings will be shown, and lunch will be served for the convenience of out-of-town guests.

### SAINT PAUL MINNESOTA

The annual Twin City exhibition will be held in St. Paul this year at the Golden Rule Store on Thursday, April 9, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. This exhibition will be put on by twenty-four African Violet Clubs, and, as usual, is non-competitive and open to the public free of charge.

### TRI-CITY SOCIETY — OHIO

A new affiliated chapter of the Society is the Tri-City African Violet Society of Ohio. It covers the Piqua, Troy, Covington area of that state. The chapter which started in July now has 20 members and over three-fourths of these are members of the National Society. The meetings are held in homes every other month.

Recently, after a trip to their greenhouses in Springfield, the Chapter was asked to name one of Ulerv's seedlings. The name chosen was "Frosty", which suits the plant to a "Tee". The plant has medium sized white flowers, and the leaves are variegated light green and frosty white. The name was accepted by Ulery's for this lovely plant and it is now being shipped under that name. This was indeed an honor for the Tri-City group.

Officers for this year for the society are:

President,	Mrs. Jean Grunewald
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Helen McBride
Treasurer,	Mrs. Iona Main
Secretary,	Mrs. Jean McCord

### PILGRIMAGE TO CHATTANOOGA

Violet enthusiasts are as incapable of moving a mountain as Mahomet, but like Mahomet they went to a mountain during the Chattanooga pilgrimage. However, insofar as they were concerned, Chattanooga's famous Lookout Mountain was pushed into the background and overshadowed in importance by African violets.

Members of the Tennessee Valley African Violet Club of Knoxville, Tennessee brought back an enthusiastic report of a successful pilgrimage and a renewed interest in African violets. Friendly hostesses of Chattanooga, Tennessee, welcomed the guests into homes literally overflowing with outstanding plants and arrangements.

Mrs. F. L. Broome's home will be remembered for a beautiful centerpiece of America from Tinari's -- an outstanding specimen. Her plant of Debutante was especially beautiful and other eye catching plants were Purity, Carmen, Pink Delight, Azure Beauty, and Helen Wilson.

Mrs. Horace Humphreys Sr.'s long porch was completely shelved and each shelf was completely filled with beautiful plants such as Fischer's Blue Moon, Apollo, Rosette, Petite, Tear Drop and double Fringettes. She also had Ulery's Carmen on display as well as a lovely plant of Rose Marie.

Luncheon was served at the home of Mrs. O. L. Miller, to seventy members and guests. Here the centerpiece was a brass bowl containing four different colored violets. Mrs. Miller's home featured arrangements and a very attractive one was of small blooming plants in an antique silver caster on an antique cherry dining room chest. The mantle arrangement was made by Mrs. G. N. Boyd. Unique arrangements using driftwood, cypress knees, and antique containers were used throughout the house.

Mrs. George Martin, president of the Chattanooga African Violet Society presided at a brief business session and welcomed the guests.

### LITTLE ROCK ARKANSAS

The Fourth Annual African Violet Show of The Little Rock African Violet Society was held at the Women's City Club. This was the third show sponsored by the Society, and their first as an Affiliated Chapter. Fourteen exhibitors entered a total of ninety plants. Two hundred and fifty people registered for the door prize, which was a lovely plant of "Sailor Girl" donated by Mrs. J. R. Hackett. Sweepstakes was won by Mrs. Charles Hallman on a points basis. A very informative educational exhibit was arranged by Mrs. Zelma Pierce. Two qualified judges from Memphis, Tennessee, Mrs. W. E. Ward and Mrs. Gerald L. Deering, judged the show. One of the outstanding features of the show was a group of arrangements, representing the months of the year. These arrangements were by invitation only.



## ST. LOUIS MISSOURI

The Rainbow African Violet Club, Chapter 5, of St. Louis and St. Louis County, Missouri, was organized on November 13, 1952.

The regular meetings are to be held on the second Thursday of the month at 1:00 p. m.

The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. Charles C. Calcaterra
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Foster A. Dill
Secy.-Treas.,	Mrs. Richard K. Nalley

## OMAHA NEBRASKA

December is Birthday Month for the Omaha African Violet Club.

On Thursday, December 13, 1952, the Sixth Annual Birthday Tea was held in the Print Room of the Joslyn Art Museum. Members and their guests attended.

A short business meeting was held and an exchange of leaves was made by those present.

The following new officers for 1953 were installed by Mrs. R. C. Adams:

President,	Mrs. L. L. Rentchler
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Henry Swingholm
Secretary,	Mrs. D. C. Rich
Treasurer,	Mrs. E. Backstrom
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. W. K. Bley

## DAYTON OHIO

For the open meeting of the Westwood African Violet Club of Dayton, held at the YWCA, the Treatie Town Club of Greenville had a beautiful table arrangement of violets. Mrs. Arthur Radtke, past president of the African Violet Society of America, was the guest speaker. Mrs. W. J. Roesch, presided over the Westwood club which had as guests a number of Violet Society members from Cincinnati and Greenville, as well as other surrounding towns. Eleven clubs arranged tables with violet exhibits.



Immediately after installation of officers tea was served to the members and their guests.

During October, tours were made by the members and guests, in a chartered bus to Des Moines, Iowa and in Omaha to the homes of members.

The Sixth Annual Mid-West African Violet Exhibit will be held in Omaha, Nebraska at the Joslyn Art Museum in the Floral Court. This date will fall on Saturday, March 21, 1953 and will be open from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. On the following day, Sunday, March 22nd, the doors will be open from 12 noon until 6 p. m.

The Exhibit is sponsored by the members of the Omaha African Violet Club. The public is cordially invited.

## SHOW ANNOUNCEMENT

The Laurence African Violet Club in conjunction with the Eudora Violet Club and the Baldwin City Violet Club will hold their African Violet Show in the Auditorium of the Community building Saturday and Sunday, March 21 and 22, 1953. From 1 o'clock till 6 o'clock.

## 1953 CONVENTION NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

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Crinkles	Lavendar Girl Hybrid	Red Bi-Color	Velvet Bouquet
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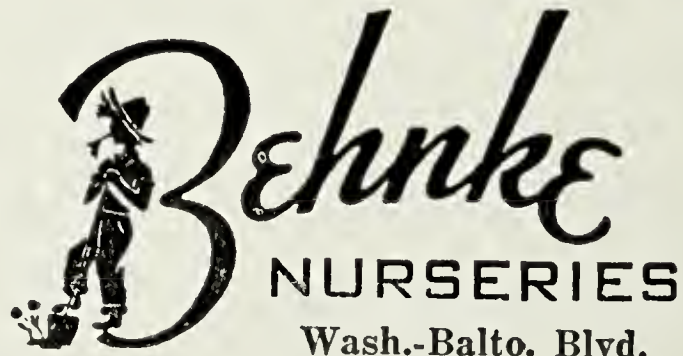
**ALL AGLOW**

and

**FANTASY GIRL**

Of all the new African violets, these two alone were featured under NEW HOUSE PLANTS in the January issue of the FLOWER GROWER.

See also "NEW TRENDS IN AFRICAN VIOLETS" by Alma Wright, former President of the African Violet Society, POPULAR GARDENING, September 1952, in which both plants receive prominent space. Registered AVSA.

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## THE SECRET OF FINE AFRICAN VIOLETS



# African Violet Magazine



*A Quarterly Publication*

## C O N T E N T S

Vol. 6

June 1953

No. 4

FRONT COVER: Blossoms from Margaret Travis collection

	Page
Tell You What .....	3
Poet's Corner .....	6
President's Message .....	7
The African Violet in Home Decoration	
Rose Gaubert .....	8
The First American Horticulturist	
Clarissa Harris .....	10
The ABC's of African Violet Culture	
Mary Parker .....	11
The Nicest Thing YET From Over The Water	
Norman Jones .....	17
Abide By Mendel!	
Sheldon C. Reed .....	18
An African Violet Show	
Norma S. Annabal .....	20
House Plants -- My Choice is African Violets	
Dorothe L. Huber .....	25
A Report From England	
Joy Hutson .....	26
Portable Light Bed For African Violets	
Bruce L. Culbertson .....	28
Buds But No Blooms	
Jennie Gillette .....	29
Show -- News and Views .....	30
The Secretary's Report .....	31
Selection in Collecting	
Eunice Toms .....	32
"My Dear Daughter" .....	33
The Easy Way With African Violets	
Irene Pendleton .....	36
Hydroponics -- Soilless Growing	
Erna Petrick .....	38
Calling All Men .....	39
Question Box .....	40
Feralon -- Plant Food .....	41
Judging School Points And Problems	
Ruth G. Carey .....	42
Qualified Judges .....	43
Twenty Question Game	
Ray G. Miller .....	44
A Dream Come True	
Evelyn Hall .....	45
"What Others Do"	
Lucy A. Lewis .....	46
Quick Growing	
Rose Pifer .....	49
The Beginning of a Chapter	
Sophie Filing .....	51
Registration Report .....	52
Call It Violetis Africanus	
Gertrude C. Prewitt .....	55
The Homing Pigeon .....	56
New Affiliated Chapters .....	58
Requirements For Affiliation .....	59
My Transplanting Method	
Thelma Delgado .....	60
African Violets and a Home Freezer	
Florence Foltz .....	62
My Strawberry Jar of Violets	
Mildred Hoffman .....	66
Club News .....	78

## EDITORIAL STAFF

Alma Wright, Editor  
Office, P. O. Box 1326  
Knoxville, Tennessee  
Phone 2-8191

Home — 4752 Calumet Drive, S. W.  
Knoxville 19, Tennessee  
Phone 8-5308

Mary Parker, Assistant Editor  
Harrill Hills, Knoxville 18, Tenn.

Evan Roberts, Research Editor  
355 N. Harrison St., E. Lansing, Mich.

Floyd L. Johnson, Advertising Mgr.  
79 West Gibson St., Canandaigua, N. Y.

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor  
1920 West 3rd, Perry, Iowa

Henry Ten Hagen, Mgr. Veterans Affairs  
Box 95, Warsaw, N. Y.

Contributing Editors - Naomi Cotton  
H. G. Harvey Shirley Heinsohn

News Reporters - Harriet F. Lawton  
Emily Hodan Daisy Jones  
Martha Mears Ruth Dahnke  
Florence Foltz

Homing Pigeon Dept.  
Helen Pochurek, News Editor  
Arthur Road, Solon, Ohio

Iva G. Woods, Membership Mgr.  
226 High St., New Wilmington, Pa.

## OFFICERS

Floyd L. Johnson, President  
79 W. Gibson St.  
Canandaigua, N. Y.  
Mrs. W. P. Dahnke, 1st Vice-Pres.  
5611 Newton Rd., Rt. 1  
Merriam, Kansas  
Mrs. E. G. Magill, 2nd Vice-Pres.  
707 S. Fourth St.  
Aurora, Ill.  
Neil C. Miller, Rec. Sec'y.  
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873 Gaylord Grove Rd.  
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio  
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3752 Berkeley Rd.  
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Mrs. Arthur Radtke, Treasurer  
P. O. Box 116, Madisonville Station  
Cincinnati 27, Ohio



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**AWARDS FOR LOCAL SHOWS** — write Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Maysville, Kentucky.

**CLUB NEWS** — send all club news items to the Club News editor, Maxine Wangberg, 1920 West Third Avenue, Perry, Iowa.

**DEADLINE DATES FOR MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS** — For September issue, June 1st; December issue, September 1st; March issue, December 1st; June issue, March 1st.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** — unless previous agreement is made with the editor pictures cannot be returned.

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## 1954 Convention

### ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

#### CHASE HOTEL

April 22, 23, 24

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FROM THE EDITOR

*Dear Friends:*

Through some inexplicable (nice word) error I gave Mrs. Passera credit in the March magazine for a story Mrs. Charles Bradley of Nashville, Tennessee wrote. Sorry Mrs. Bradley!

The story was "Growing Seeds on a Brick."

Was out of BINDERS for "several" weeks. Hated the delay many of you experienced in ordering. Hope most of you all know by now I'm not too smart . . . these things do happen to my kind of editor . . .

Please send me your membership card in case of an error in our files. It will establish your record of payment and help us correct our files. We will return it promptly.

Have you read the "Tell You What" page? Has some good information.

Most sincerely,

*Anna Wright*

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# Poets Corner

## TO THE VIOLET

No matter how many we see,  
And no matter how briefly they last,  
They seem to hold for eternity  
Some of the future and past.  
I may find in their fragile beauty  
The robe of a vanished king,  
Or the gilded gown of his cherished queen --  
Or the snows of a mountain in spring  
that no other may have seen.  
Pale mist of a coming morn;  
Lush grapes on an Autumn vine;  
The downy skin of a babe new-born;  
Or the depth of the ruby wine.  
Now I have "been and seen," t'is said;  
Enough! For it is true;  
But they still hold the promise dear,  
Of always something new.

Charles Applegate

## TIMES THIEF

Since violets  
Are living here  
On window-sill,  
On chiffonier --  
In every space  
A bit of sun  
Can shine through on  
The frailest one --  
I have no time  
For anything  
But tending them  
And watering.  
In broken cups,  
In tins with dents,  
They blossom in  
Sweet innocence.  
Who would have thought  
A little leaf  
Could turn so quickly  
Into a thief?

Madge Gordon Weaver

## AFRICAN VIOLET WIDOWER

Pardon me, did you say African Violets?  
Or maybe they're just running thru my head  
At home I see them every where I look,  
They are even all over my bed.

My darling wife really has the craze,  
She has them pink, purple, blue and white  
She transplants them all day long,  
And then waters them half of the night.

From dawn 'til dark I hear nothing else,  
It's Red Head, Blue Boy, Trilby or Blue Girl,  
Amethyst, Sailor Boy, Neptune or Viking,  
No wonder my head's in such a whirl.

They're in the bed room, dining room, kitchen  
All over the walls and the floor,  
They're even in the bath tub,  
Every day brings more and more!

So I am an African Violet widower,  
I don't know if I'm a husband or not,  
I expect to find myself some day,  
Planted in a little red clay pot.

S. B. Jack

(Reprinted from Vol. 1 No. 1)

## SYMPHONY IN COLOR

I must get slightly lyrical  
To tell just how I feel  
About my much-loved violets  
That have such warm appeal.

It seems I have a symphony  
Of color in my home,  
Their subtle tones of harmony  
Would melt a heart of stone.

The deep rich blues are bass-toned viols  
The clear pure whites -- a flute,  
And variegated blossoms are  
A clarinet's beauty mute.

The doubles march along the shelves  
Like the ruffles of a drum,  
Bright ripples of piano keys  
Merge shades of rose and plum.

Just glance at rows of violets,  
A tune in sweet disguise,  
Their lovely color rhapsodies  
Make music for your eyes.

Josephine Charles



# Were You There? -- at the Nashville Convention



If so -- you know what a splendid convention we had. If not -- you missed one of the best conventions which we have held thus far. The September issue will show you by word and picture the many highlights of this convention.

We want to gratefully thank Mrs. W. C. Dalton, her committee chairmen and their co-workers for giving us this grand convention. Mrs. John A Landaker of Cincinnati, chairman of the commercial exhibits is also to be thanked for the splendid showing of the commercial exhibits. Most of our conventionites were very happy to take home plants, accessories, etc. from the sales room.

## WORDS OF CAUTION:

1. Our Treasurer, Myrtle Radtke, calls my attention to some members sending in checks of \$2.50 as renewal.  
These will not be accepted. Every applicant for membership (new or renewal) pays \$3.00 annually. If he or she belongs to an **AFFILIATED CHAPTER** this same society or club may retain 50¢ for its treasury. But remittance to the African Violet Society of America, Inc. must be made (in this case) through the Affiliated Chapter.  
Personal membership renewals are \$3.00 annually.
2. It takes 30 days for a new or renewal application to reach us and be processed and a magazine mailed out. Some have been sending in their money and expect their magazine by return mail. We will take care of your application just as quickly as possible. Do not send money by mail -- send check or Post Office Money Order.
3. In case of error in date of our files -- please submit your membership card for verification. Same will be returned to you promptly.
4. In borrowing slides from our Slide Library -- please see that you carry out **EVERY** request and not jeopardize your chances of getting future slides. The slides sent to you are valued over \$100 per set -- and they are loaned to you free! Do not be tardy or lax in your obligations. It is also important that you return the written material sent to you.
5. Our Constitution is having its triennial revision. You will find it in a future issue of the Handbook.
6. Our Editor is looking for your contributions to the magazine in the way of articles on your experiences and knowledge about and concerning African violets. Our magazine belongs to you -- our members -- and what you do with it depends upon your interest and activity.
7. Our next Annual meeting and convention will be held in St. Louis -- April 22-23-24th. Plan NOW to attend!!
8. We were most grateful for the various awards given at the Nashville convention -- we could use more!

Thanks are in order to the Viking African Violet Club of Webster Grove, Missouri -- Mrs. D. W. Goode, Treasurer; and to the Erie County African Violet Society of Erie, Pennsylvania -- Mrs. J. E. Wynkoop, Treasurer -- for their fine contributions to the Research Fund. These gifts are most appreciated.

Thanks are also due to the Aurora African Violet Society of Aurora, Illinois, Mrs. Robert A Brown, Secretary -- for being the first to send in a contribution to the Boyce Edens Memorial Fund.

Finally -- many, many sincere thanks are due to members of our Board for their attendance in Board and committee meetings. Much business had to be transacted and through their cooperation -- our Society will continue to march forward. African Violet folk are friendly, cooperative people!

Sincerely,

*Lloyd L. Johnson*



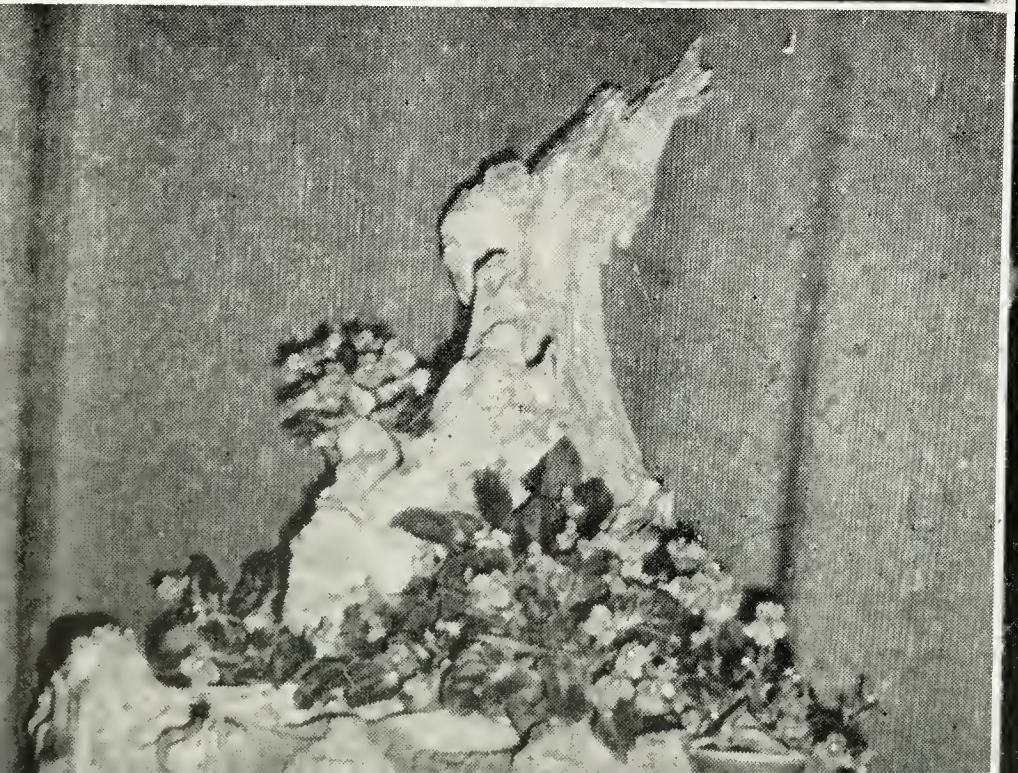


# *The African in Home*

**N**ow that it has been firmly established and demonstrated that African violets can even be grown in a dark corner of your basement under fluorescent lighting, why not give some thought to using our most attractive plants as part of our interior decorating schemes. For many of us have been guilty of being such avid collectors that we have cluttered up our homes -- not only with blooming plants, but with plants anywhere from seed, leaf, division stage, in jars, bottles, or what have you. This detracts greatly from our lovely plants, which really deserve the stage to themselves.

Why not use some out of the way place, such as a porch, unused bedroom, attic, or aforementioned basement, to grow our plants; then, at the point of greatest beauty, bring them out into the living room and combine them with lamps, mirrors, other house plants, or driftwood to make a picture. A dining room table full of plants is a sight to behold, but it loses its charm if guests have to be taken out to dinner for lack of space.

Large plants take up a lot of room and cannot be grouped together as well as smaller plants. It is so easy in our enthusiasm to collect and possess all the latest varieties, that we may overlook the fact that mere possession is not the greatest thrill





# *Violet Decoration*

Rose Gaubert, California

of growing African violets. If we have more plants than we comfortably have room for, if some of our older plants are getting large and cumbersome, why not share them with someone else? Possibly someone who has no African violet at all could devote her whole stage to one large plant.

A poem comes to my mind that seems so appropriate for the grower of plants:

"It's the willingness in sharing with somebody else

That each days happiness depends—

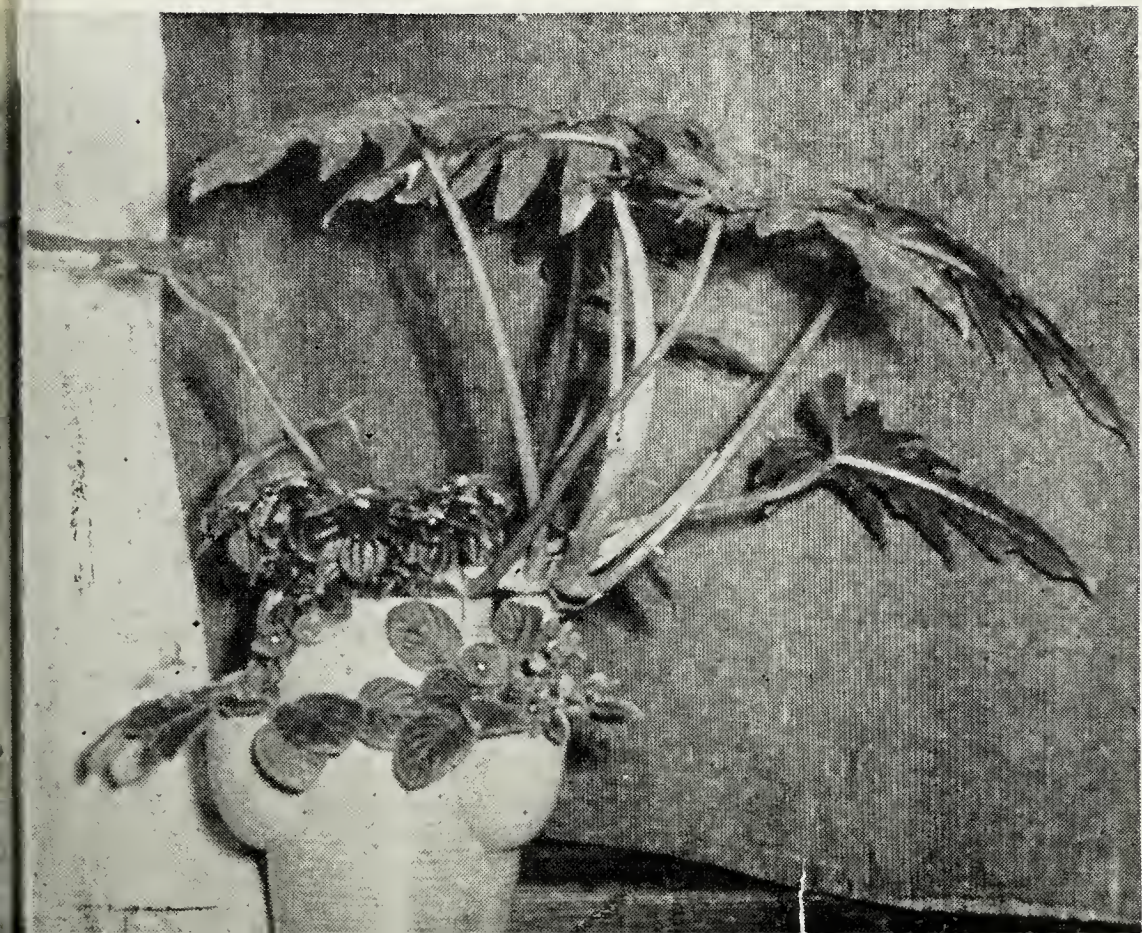
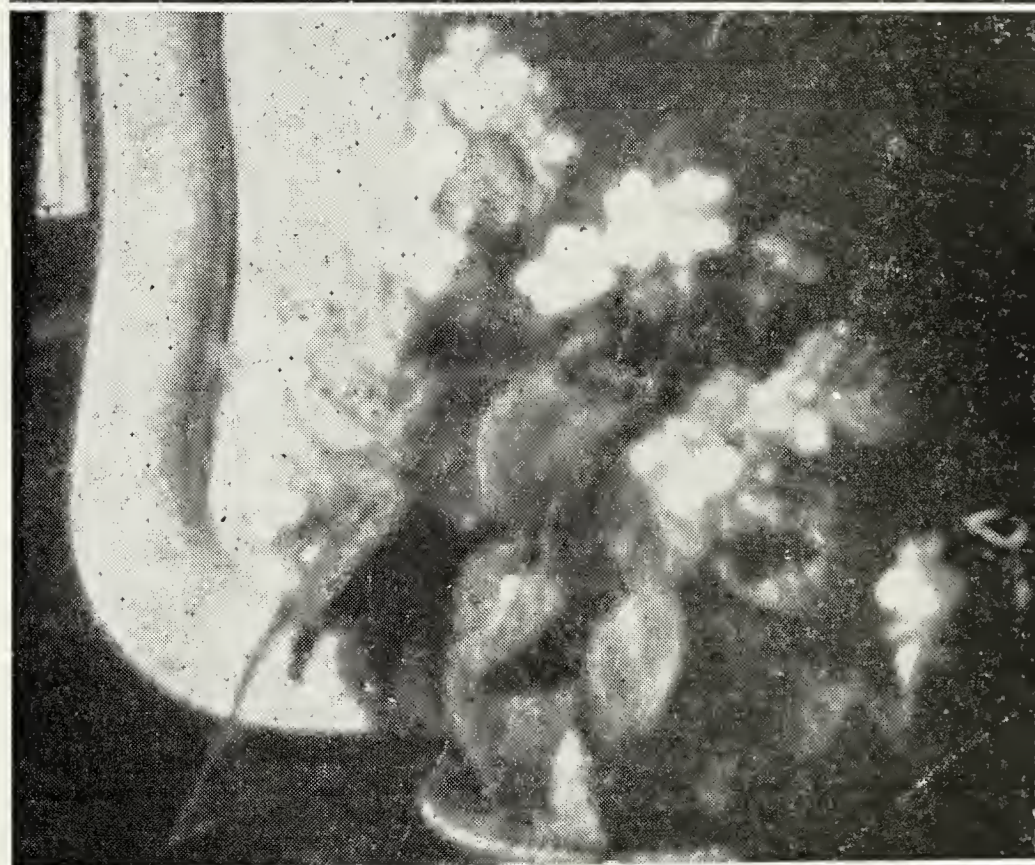
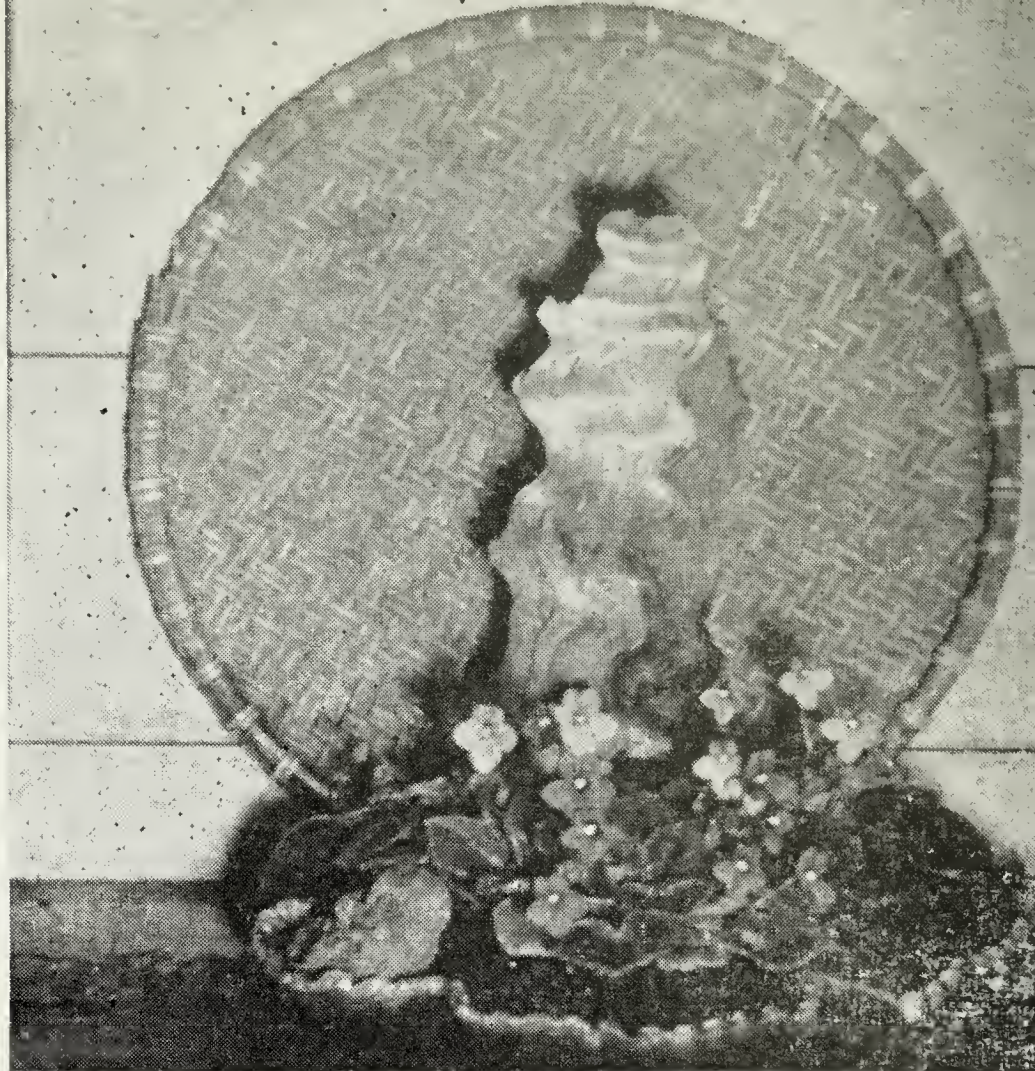
And the joys of the hour when you sum them all up

Are found in having good friends."

You will indeed make friends if you find people who need cheer and give them an African violet. Or, if your local Garden Club, Society, or Church is having a plant sale or bazaar, there is a place to give of a few more and help a worthy cause besides.

To me, watching a plant grow to maturity is the greatest thrill of all, and if you can crown your success by then sharing the plant with someone to whom it will bring happiness, your joy will be complete.

Cont. on Page 68







Mrs. Parker with rooted leaves and young plantlets in growing flat.

# THE A B C's of AFRICAN VIOLET CULTURE

Mary Parker, Knoxville, Tenn.

If you are an expert in growing and collecting Saintpaulias, this article may not interest you, so I suggest you just pass it by. But recently a young woman who had just received her first copy of the African Violet Magazine asked me to please tell her how to grow plants successfully, and how old a leaf had to be before she could take it off to root. Another wrote from Florida that she loved the Magazine but please not to print too many scientific articles. What she wanted to know is "How to grow them?" Still another has said to me, "I have taken off at least twenty leaves and I still can't get one to root and grow."

All this made me realize that we still have beginners coming into our group each month and we must not forget them. So please forgive us if we go once more into the A B C's of Violet Culture.

Here is the way I grow them.

## SELECT A YOUNG LEAF —

Don't take an old worn out leaf that has seen its best days. Use a young, medium size leaf from your plant with a stem preferably about two inches long. It should be cut off the plant and not pinched and bruised.

Put only the stem in water to root, placing the bottle or glass in a good light window but without hot sun. In a few weeks, small white roots will appear and the leaf is ready to be planted.

If you wish, you may plant the leaves directly into the growing medium without first rooting them in water, but beginners usually find this method a little less successful.

## PLANTING METHODS —

If you have several leaves to plant you may want to use a small wooden flat. Even a dish or pan will do if care is used in watering. If you have only a few leaves they may be planted separately in small pots.

The mixture I use, in either case, is two parts peat moss and one part vermiculite. Sometimes I mix in a little sterilized soil. Violets aren't half as finicky and fussy as some would have you think. The mixture is thoroughly moistened, a small hole is punched in it and the rooted stem planted about one inch deep. Press the peat mixture firmly around the stem. You may have to prop the leaf up for a few days, with a toothpick, until the roots start to grow. Use warm water to keep the growing mixture wet and moist down to the roots at all times, but not soggy wet.





Place the leaf stem in water to root.

Early spring is a wonderful time to start leaves, but it may be done almost any time of the year in most climates. African violets do not like extremes in temperature. They should not become chilled, nor do they like over 80 degree heat.

#### WATCH THEM GROW —

Now you will have the fun of watching for the tiny, baby plants to appear. Sometimes they come quickly, again it may be weeks and even months. Don't give up, just give them good light, moisture and warmth and you will be amply rewarded.

After the leaves begin to send up the new baby shoots, they may be watered with a half-strength solution of Hyponex now and then. I know there are some who say not to fertilize until the buds form, but from experience I believe that a slight feeding helps these new plantlets to grow sturdy and strong.

#### READY TO POT —

When the plants are about two inches high they are ready to be taken up and potted. If more than one should grow from the leaf, the cluster of plants may be gently worked apart and each planted separately. If one plant is weaker than the others or has no roots, it may be put back into the peat mixture where it will develop a more complete root system and grow into a sturdy little plant.

The stronger plants should be planted into a good mixture of loose, sterile soil. Be careful that you do not set the small plant too deeply into the soil. Only the roots and barely enough of the plant should be covered to hold it firmly. It may even be propped up with toothpicks too, if necessary, until it begins to grow. Use a 2½" or 3" pot with good drainage in the bottom.



Rooted with young plantlets the leaf is ready to plant.

I use good top soil from the woods, a little leaf mold or peat moss added, and some pulverized cattle or sheep manure. I don't measure, only guess at proportions, however, I would say you might use a gallon of soil, a quart of peat or leaf mold and a good cup of manure. Don't let the soil be too fine or too heavy so it will become hard and pack. Violets enjoy a loose, aerated soil.

#### GENERAL CARE —

Now the small plants are potted and what fun to watch for the first buds. Probably the most important factor of all, to good growth and bloom, is proper lighting. Many are having wonderful success with fluorescent lights placed about twelve inches above the plants. However, they love good daylight too, without too much hot sun, especially in the summer. They will take just a little more winter sun because it is not so apt to burn them through the window glass.

Violets do not have to be watered every day but they do need to be checked almost every day. Water the plants with warm water. They do not like the soil to become hard and dry, neither do they care for swimming, so use common sense in caring for your plants.

After they begin to bud and bloom, you should use a good complete plant food to feed them now and then. There are many good ones on the market, but be sure to use only as directed.

Try to keep all suckers pinched off as a single crown plant is much prettier. And do remember this. If you have a few failures at first, don't become discouraged. Keep on trying. The pleasure of growing a lovely violet from only a leaf to a full blooming plant is worth all the effort. And think of the lovely gifts you can grow to share with friends.



# *First American Horticulturist To Introduce New Varieties of African Violets*

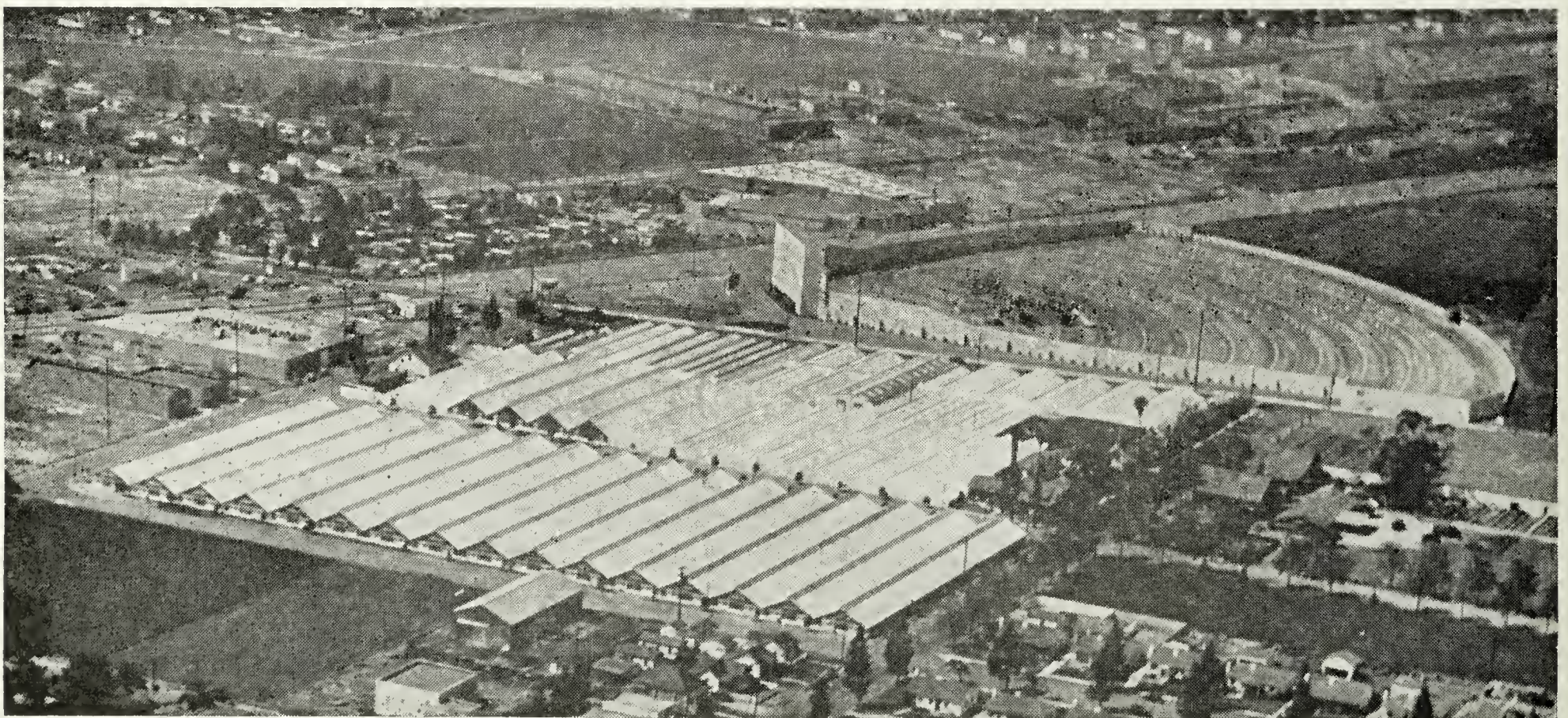
Clarissa Harris, Los Angeles, Cal.

**W**alter L. Armacost, president and general manager of Armacost and Royston Nursery, Los Angeles, California first acquired seed of the African violet from the firms of Ernest Benary of Erfurt, Germany and Sutton's of London, England. From these seed he introduced the best commercial African violet grown to date. Blue Boy has never been exceeded as a commercial plant, though there are thousands of introductions at this time. Other introductions at the same time, also worthy of an esteemed place in collections are: Sailor Boy, Admiral, Amethyst, Norseman, Neptune, Viking, Commodore, No. 32, and Mermaid.

Walter L. Armacost completed high school and his academic education at the age of sixteen. He taught school for two years then returned to his chosen field. He served his apprenticeship as a flower grower in Baltimore, Md., and rose rapidly to a position of responsibility in horticulture. While in Jamestown, N. Y. he determined to go to California. After a while his desires crystalized and he traveled westward, working in an established greenhouse in Mentor, Ohio, the next spring

he pushed westward. Arriving in California shortly after the turn of the century (1902) he secured employment in Santa Monica. In 1911 he associated himself with F. E. Royston and acquired a 37 acre tract in West Los Angeles, where he developed the largest greenhouse west of Chicago. It was in this location that Mr. Armacost became known as one of the foremost Orchid growers in the United States. Under his able management the business now enjoys world wide recognition and has ten acres under glass. The original Glasshouse, which can be identified in the accompanying birds-eye view of the plant by the dark roof today is surrounded by forty seven modern glasshouses. Mr. Armacost died June 28th, 1947.

The fact that horticulturists in European Countries saw that the African violet would one day be considered the most valuable house plant had its effect on this American horticulturist and in 1927 he obtained seed, turning same over to his plant superintendent, Mr. Bracey for propagation. The foreman of the potted plant division of the firm was Walter Oertel, who immediately



Birds Eye View of the firm of Armacost & Royston, Los Angeles.

Original greenhouse, identified by the dark roof, is surrounded by 47 modern greenhouses today.



set to work with African violet seed. Mr. Oertel born of two generations of nurserymen near Dresden, Germany served with Armacost and Royston for sixteen years from 1923 to 1940, and the following story of propagation results was obtained from him.

Approximately one thousand plants were grown to blooming size from the combined seed. At which time a strict eliminating plan was put into effect and only one hundred plants were retained for further observation and propagation. After several years studying the growth habit, character of foliage, colors and good blooming qualities only ten came up to this firm's high standard.

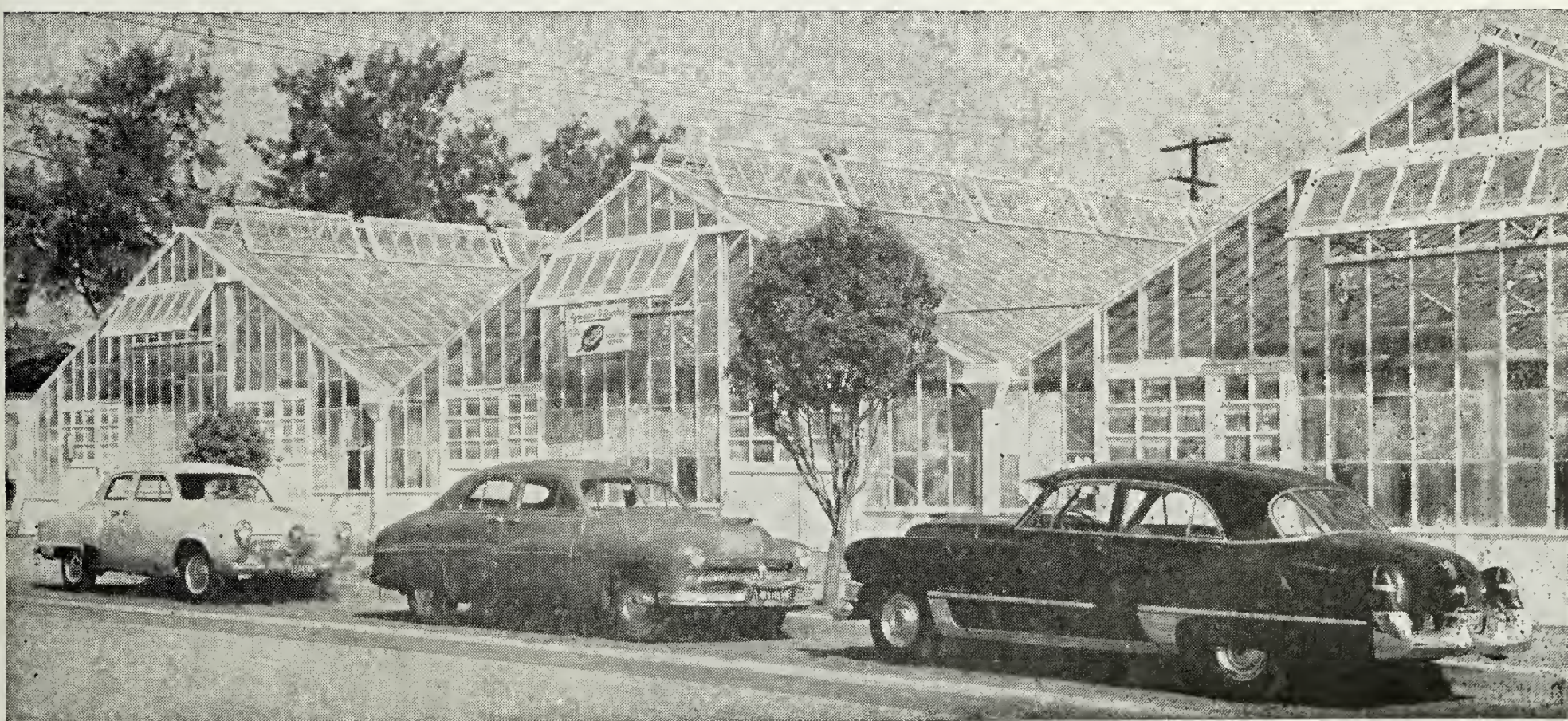
From the seed obtained from Germany only two plants were retained. First place was held by the ever popular BLUE BOY, for its ease of propagation, generous flowering quality, quantity of bloom, depth of color, and flexibility for shipping -- and this fine plant still holds that enviable position. And SAILOR BOY particularly free-flowering with a bright sea blue blossom held well above a glossy green foliage is a very splendid African violet.

The English seed produced eight African violets that still hold their place among collections as among the best. ADMIRAL -- This plant has a tendency to grow flat. The leaves are a deep dull green, slightly quilted and cupped downward, ovate with slightly cordate base and an almost smooth margin. Flowers are dark blue slightly tinged with violet in clusters of from three to five produced very freely above the foliage. AMETHYST -- The plant has an upright habit of growth. The leaves are medium green tinged with purple on back of leaf. The leaves are ovate,



Walter L. Armacost

glossy, slightly quilted, with toothed or dentate edge. The petioles are tinged with rose and extend to the length of 3 to 3½ inches. Flowers are large and bloom profusely in clusters of 6 to 8 standing well above the foliage. The top petals have a tendency to have a deeper shade. VIKING -- The plant has a compact, flat habit of growth. Leaves are dark green with a light streak up the center. The underside of the leaf is a reddish purple, giving the leaf a deep rich green color. As leaves mature they take on a glossy quilted appearance. Petioles are green flushed with purple and short



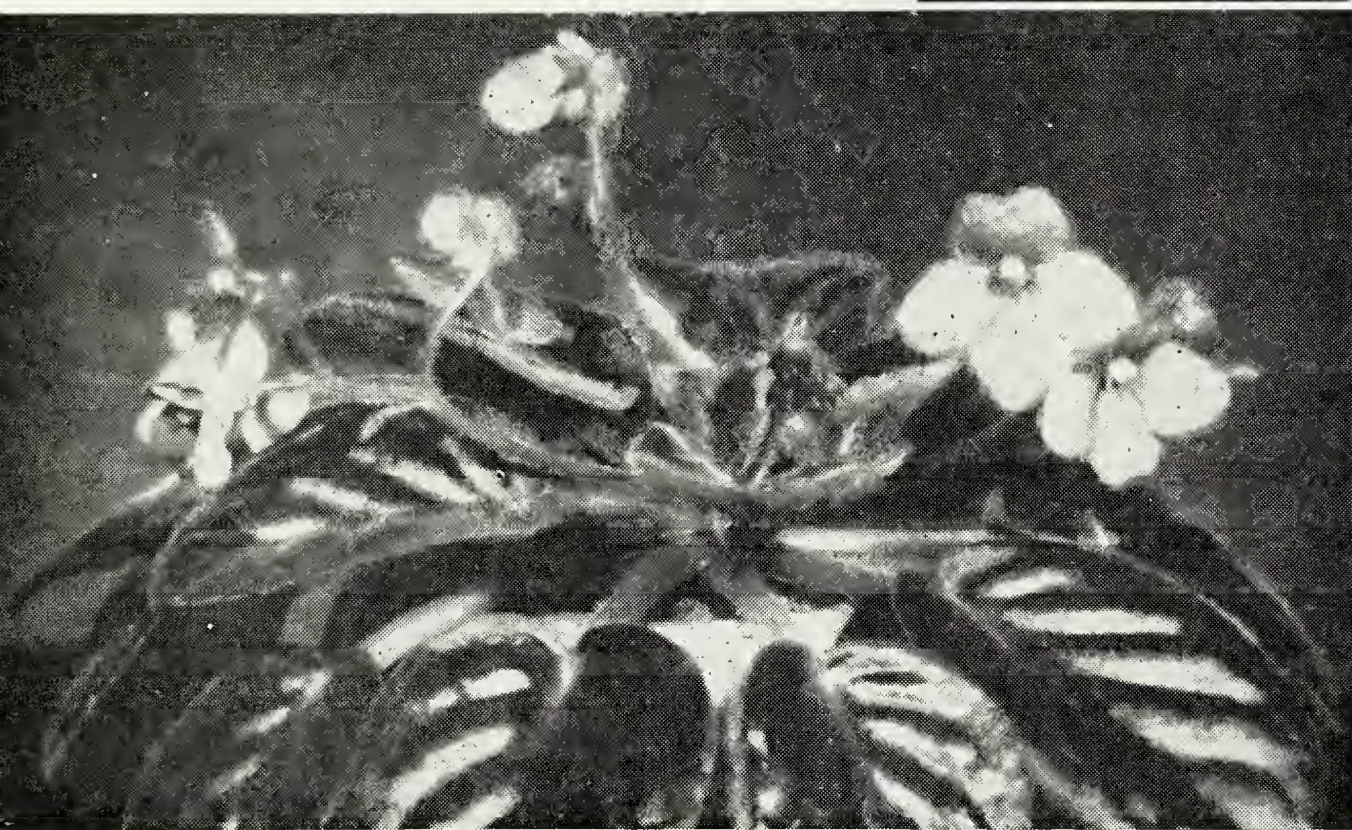
Close up of several of the glasshouses at Armacost & Roystons.



Right, Commodore



Left, No. 32



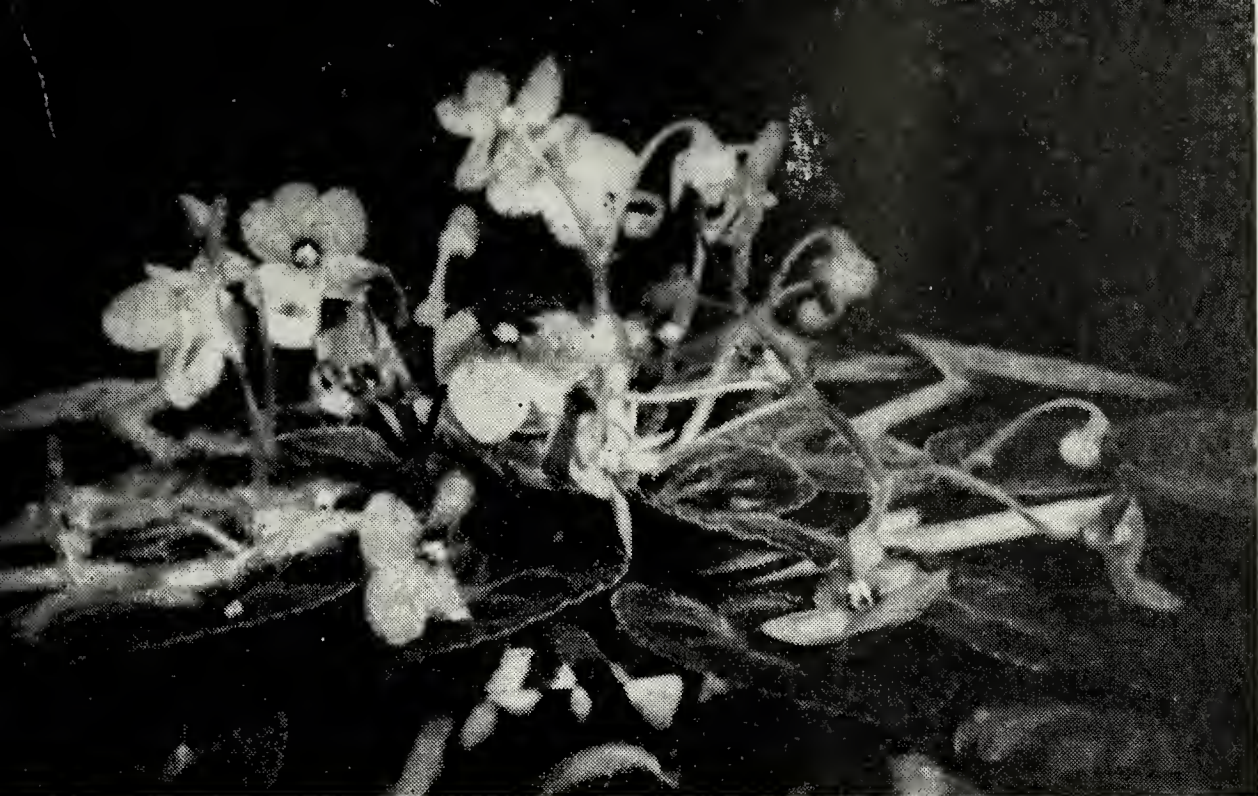
Right, Ionantha



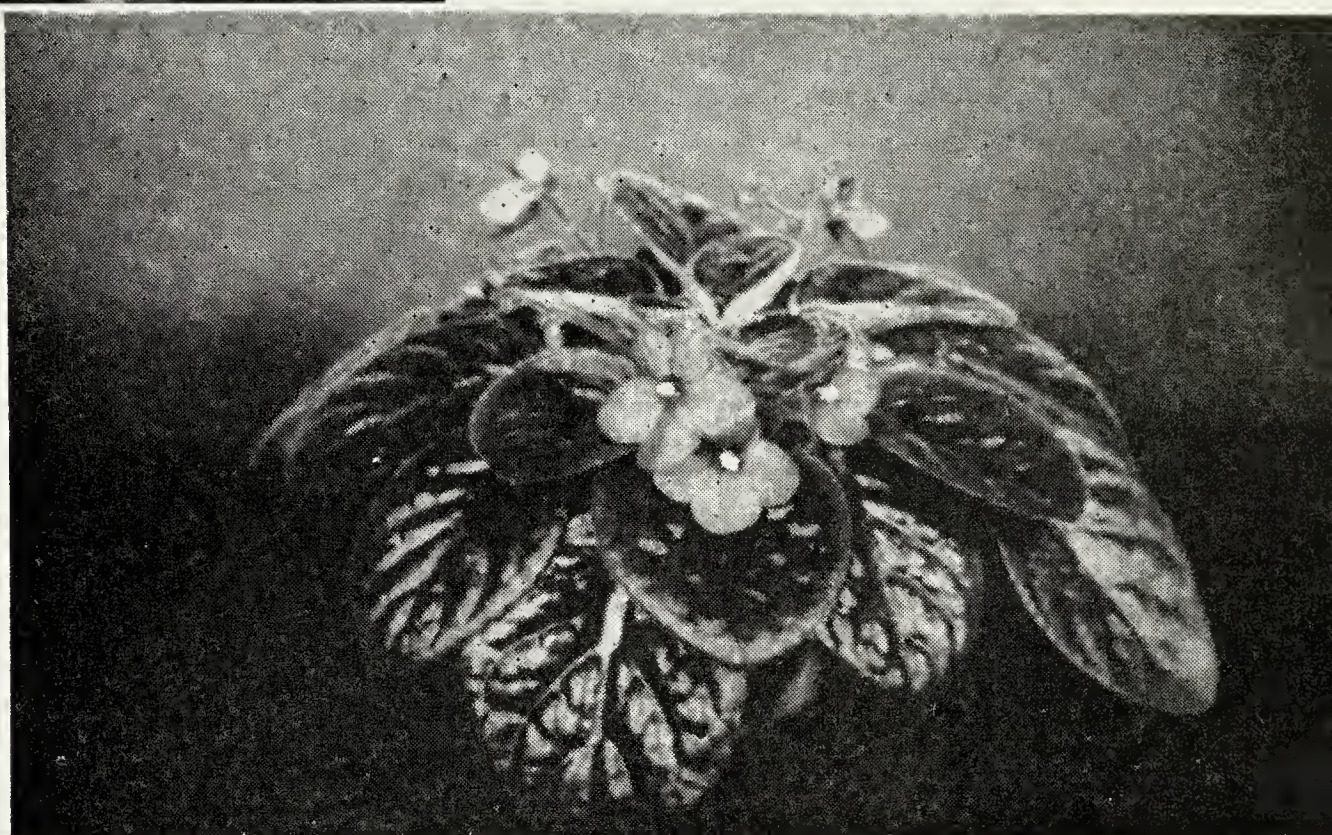
Left, Sailor Boy



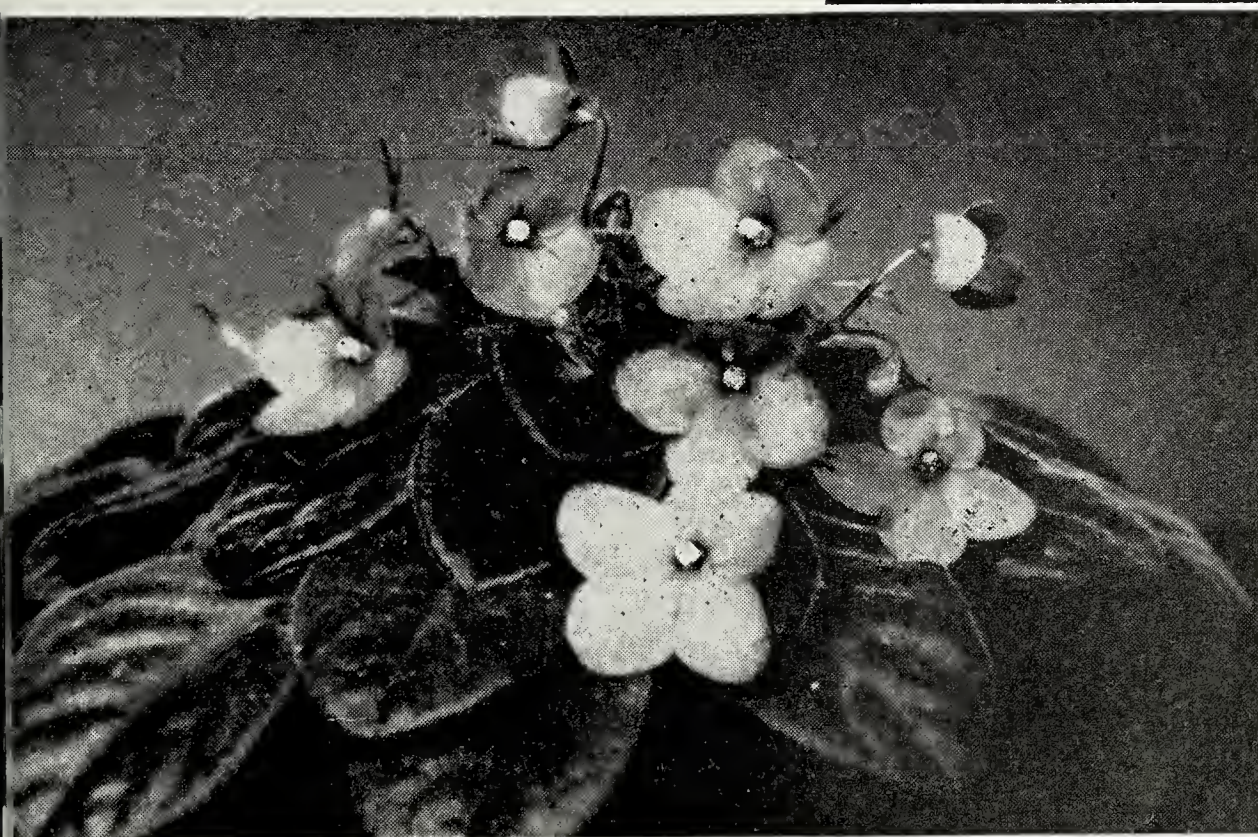




Left, Amethyst



Right, Neptune



Left, Norseman



Right, Viking



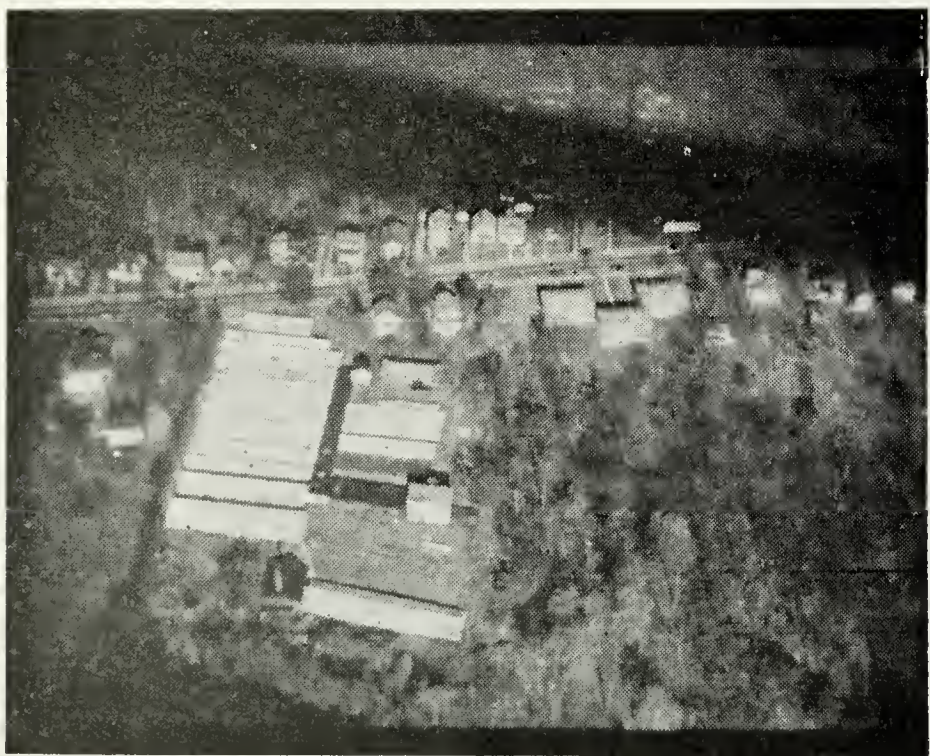
forming a compact rosette. Flowers are a deep purple which many times show a slight marking around the lobes. These flowers are small but produce many flowers in clusters of from 5 to 7 on many flower stems. MERMAID -- The plant forms a compact rosette. The leaves are small round and a glossy medium green, quilted on 3 to 3½ inch petioles. Flowers are a light blue, a very good bloomer. Doubt about this plant belonging to the Armacost and Royston collection has now been cleared up and though it did not appear in previous articles it was introduced by the aforesaid firm.

The following plants of this group produce larger than average blooms. NORSEMAN -- Plant has a droopy, compact method of growth. Leaves are ovate with almost smooth edges, acute tip and rounded bases. Leaves have a velvet appearance, glossy with quilting, overlaid with hairyness. The plant has a tendency to color on the underside. Flowers are round, clustered in 6-7 on average petioles. The flowers are the nearest true blue in a medium shade of any African violet. This plant is a very heavy bloomer. A prize in any collection. NEPTUNE -- Plant has a flat growing habit. Leaves are egg shaped, quilted and shiny, cupping upward and often very spooned. The flushing on the underside of the leaves and petioles is very deep making interesting contrast to the rich green coloring on the surface of the leaf. Flowers are

Below —

View from the air of the greenhouses of J. A. Peterson and Sons, who had the foresight to recognize the outstanding varieties and make it possible for us to purchase from the original stock of Armacost & Royston.

The present day owner of the J. A. Peterson & Sons Greenhouses, Cincinnati, Ohio is Mr. Henry Peterson. Mr. Peterson is the grandson of the founder of the firm and is an active member of the African Violet Society of America.



medium purple. A very distinct variety and a heavy bloomer. COMMODORE -- Mature plant is very large with a drooping effect. The leaves are 3½ to 4¼ inches long and 2¾ inches wide cupped downward. Leaves are dark green and purple beneath, quilted with darker valleys. Flowers are a rich reddish purple appearing above the foliage on short petioles in clusters of from 6 to 8. This plant is not a prolific bloomer but the richness of foliage and deep velvet blossoms makes it stand out in every collection. NO. 32 -- Here is definitely a mis-carriage of justice, in the writers opinion for it exceeds the others in qualities of perfection. Plant, perfect in form, mature leaves growing flat with new leaves having a tendency to stand erect. The young leaves are quite cupped and very red on the under side making a very attractive contrast to the deep rich olive green. Leaves ovate, slightly dentate, always cupped, with veining very definite. Flowers are orchid violet with the same round blossom appearing just above the foliage on short flower stems in clusters of 6 to 7. It is regretted it does not carry a glamorous name.

West Coast Amethyst (Jessie) was propagated by Armacost and Royston but was not originally their introduction.

In 1936 when these introductions were placed on the market shipments were made to many countries, other than generally distributed throughout the United States, such as South Africa, Australia, Canada and many European countries. Enthusiasm for this plant reached a high level for a number of years but the individual growers who govern the popularity, were not well enough versed in its growing requirements to make their demands felt on the horticulturists and it was at this time that Armacost and Royston discontinued growing African violets.

It is with pleasure to note that the African Violet Society of America, Inc., the organization that has advanced the African violet to the position of being the finest house plant, has awarded this firm the Bronze Medal Certificate for achievement in furthering the development of Saintpaulias. Had not such diligence been adhered to, much less might be known today of this very cherished plant.

As an enthusiastic California collector of African violets, this story would not be complete without mentioning the firm of J. A. Peterson and Sons of Cincinnati, Ohio, who had the foresight to recognize these outstanding varieties and purchase plants -- making it possible that we may have plants from the original stock.

It may in closing be of interest to readers to know something of Mr. Oertel's ideas regarding soil requirements. The soil mixture used was four parts Oak leaf mold, one part sand, ½ part steer manure and to this mixture the addition of bone meal. It is his opinion that a rich soil of this type is all that is needed to bring African violets to the blooming stage easily and successfully.



# The Nicest Thing Yet

## From Over the Water

Norman Jones, England

Please do not misunderstand me; we British have had a lot of good things from our American cousins in the last few years -- Lease Lend, Community Dancing, the G. I., and many wonderfully good parcels. But the graceful, charming little Saintpaulia has gone straight to the heart of the few lucky people who have learned to grow it over here.

Let me tell you of our experience. Two years ago my wife and I went to Holland. On the way to the airport to return home, we stopped at a florist's to send a few flowers to our hostess. There we first saw the wonderful little blue flower of the African violet. We asked the name of it, wrote it down on a piece of card and returned to England.

Without delay we went straight to the Library of our Royal Horticultural Society to inquire about the plant, and our first discovery was that it had a book all to itself written by Helen Van Pelt Wilson, brimful of enthusiasm and helpfulness. Second discovery -- there was a Society devoted to its culture.

The next urgent need, therefore, was three American dollars -- not so easy over here where dollars are rarer than snow in summer. Well, we managed that -- no names, no pack drill\* -- and in due course our first copy of the African Violet Magazine arrived.

"Then felt I like some watcher of the skies  
When a new planet swims into his ken;"

Cont. on Page 48

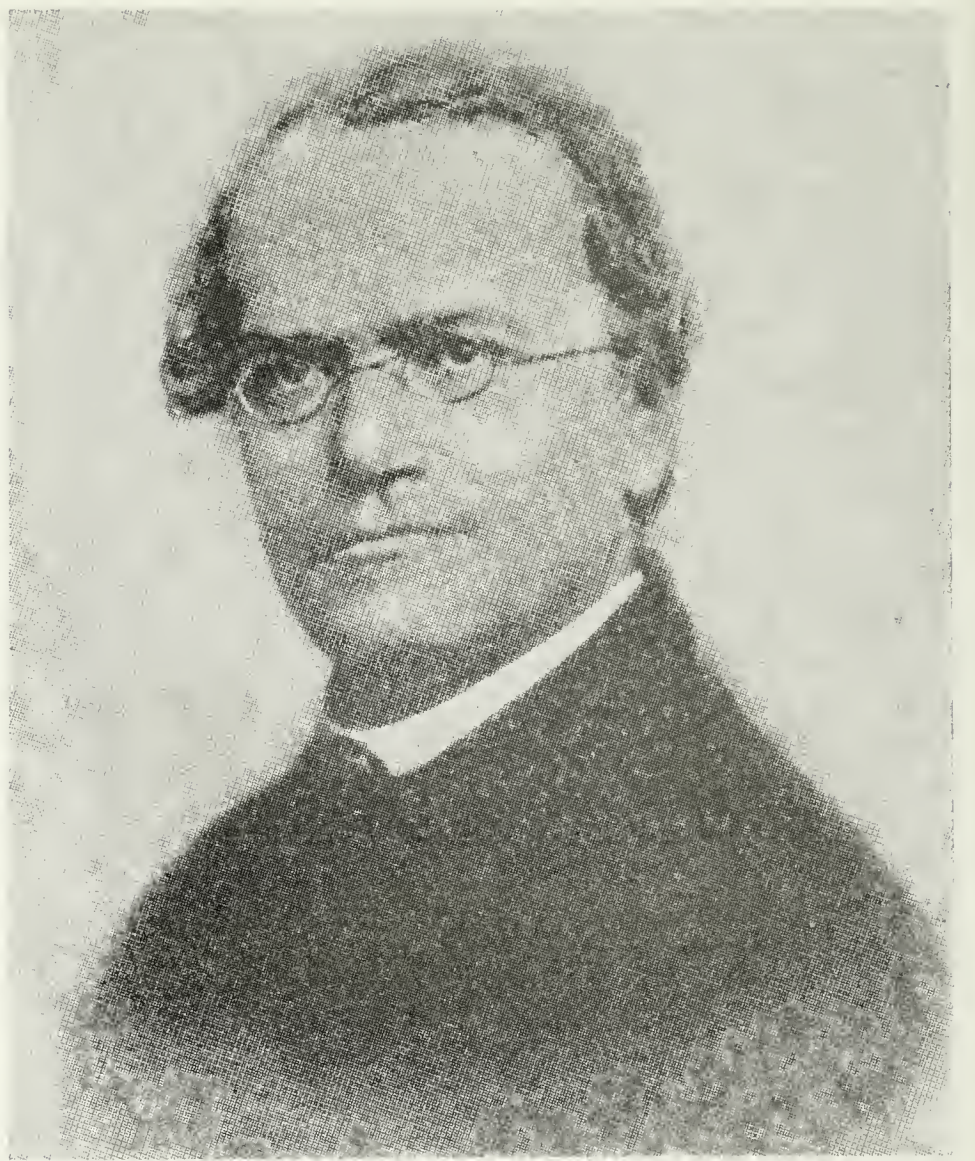
Margaret E. Jones with her Saintpaulia collection.





Gregor Mendel, the  
monk who discovered  
the laws  
of heredity.

Figure 1



# Abide by Mendel!

Sheldon C. Reed, Minn.

During the war between the states, our country was in turmoil. It was quite different in the peaceful monastery garden at Brunn of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. A great many pea plants had been grown there by Gregor Mendel, an Augustinian monk. It was from his garden peas, in the 1860's, that he discovered the laws of heredity. Since then, his laws have been found to be true for the great and small, for bacteria and men. Billions of dollars of profits have been returned from the exploitation of plants and animals according to the dictates of Mendel's laws. Hybrid corn is but one of the triumphs of genetics which resulted from the application of Mendelian principles.

The African violet will be found to obey Mendel's laws just as do the other forms of life. Only those variations which conform to Mendel's laws, when crosses are made, can be depended upon to reproduce their distinctive features whether grown in the greenhouse, the basement, or in the kitchen window.

If we wish to obtain new varieties and improve the old ones, and do so with the greatest economy, we must learn the laws discovered by Mendel. Before we learn his laws, let's give at

least a quick glance at the kindly face of Gregor Mendel reproduced in figure 1. Now let me show you how the laws worked in a few of the African violet crosses I have made.

Incidentally, I have no greenhouse. A few glass shelves in the windows and four 40-watt fluorescent bulbs in the basement were enough to provide the light for all the plants mentioned below and many others.

## I. MENDEL'S FIRST LAW, THE PRINCIPLE OF SEGREGATION.

This law says that if you cross plants having different colors or forms that your hybrid plants will keep the determiners, or genes, for the different colors inviolate in their cells. These characteristics of flower color or leaf shape will be expected to emerge or segregate again in the next or later generations of breeding, and in definite ratios.

One of the best known characteristics of the African violet is the leaf type known as "girl." The girl type leaf has a shorter stem than the contrasting type called "boy" but most noticeable is the area at the base of the leaf itself which is white. This white "spot" at the base of the leaf allows one to classify baby plants, as to whether



they have the girl or boy type leaves, with ease. These girl and boy types have absolutely nothing to do with the sex of the plant. Each African violet plant has both male and female sex organs present. My first cross was between the varieties known as "Red Head Girl" and "Red Mentor Boy" -- this sounds more like human genetics than plant genetics! The progeny from this cross demonstrated Mendel's simplest ratio (the 1:1 ratio) very nicely. There were 28 plants with girl type leaves to 26 with the boy type in this F<sup>1</sup>, meaning first filial, generation.

What does this clear cut 1:1 ratio of girl to boy type plants tell us? The answer is that Red Head Girl, the mother of this segregating progeny of both girl and boy type plants, is not a "pure-bred." She is a hybrid herself. If she were pure bred, she would have produced all one kind of offspring, not equal numbers of girl and of boy type plants. To the geneticist it is obvious that Red Head Girl has one gene for the girl type leaf in her cells and also one for the boy type leaf, the latter being concealed. Previous to the cross it was not suspected of being present.

Mendel would have called the gene causing girl type leaves a **dominant** because it **always** shows if present in the plant and it **covers up** the presence of the boy type gene which is quite logically, therefore, said to be **recessive**.

Red Head Girl was crossed with some other varieties having boy type leaves and the same kind of results were obtained. Other girl types, Blue Queen, Pink Girl and Snow Girl, were also

crossed with boy type varieties and behaved just as did Red Head Girl. We see then, that no matter what kind of a cross we make, if one parent has girl type leaves, half of the offspring will also have girl type leaves! The 1:1 ratios obtained when the four girl type varieties were crossed with their "boy friends" are given in table 1.

It is reasonable to assume that Red Head Girl, Blue Queen and Snow Girl have the same gene for the girl type leaf and probably all of them obtained it from the same source, namely Blue Girl, the first variety to show this characteristic. Blue Girl was what is called a "mutation or sport."

There is at least one other obvious cross which would be made in studying the heredity of the girl type leaf. It is the self-fertilization of the girl type plant. The pollen of a Red Head Girl flower was placed upon the stigma of the same flower. The seeds from this selfing were planted and 52 seedlings, picked at random, were raised.

The 52 seedlings turned out to be girl type in 40 instances and boy type in 12. This observation gives a 3:1 ratio. The most exact 3:1 possible for 52 plants would be 39 girl to 13 boy. Mendel's 3:1

Cont. on Page 63

Below —

An ordinary girl type plant (Gg) on the left which has flowered once, and on the right a dwarf plant of the same age having two girl genes (GG).

Figure 2







Queen of the Show plant.

**I**t all started as a money-raising project for the Young Women's Christian Association Building Renovation Fund. But it, like Topsy, grew and grew, until the initial purpose seemed to lose itself in an all out enthusiasm to put on the best African Violet Show possible.

Rank amateurs, with one exception, many of us had not even attended a show. We let ignorance be bliss, not realizing the millions of details, the untiring effort, and the many workers needed to make the event a success, and commenced planning for a Violet Show to be held June sixth and seventh. Under the able leadership of Miss Elizabeth Fonda, General Chairman, and Miss Marie Espersen as Publicity Chairman, both successful amateur growers, the first announcement was made to the public on January 26, and at regular intervals after that, articles appeared in both Buffalo and Rochester papers as well as our own Batavia Daily. The cooperation of the local paper and radio station WBTA. was wonderful. Our ad in the March issue of the African Violet Magazine aided immeasurably. Mrs. Elroy E. Coniber, Classification Chairman, and a commercial grower in Batavia (Violet House). spoke over WKBW in Buffalo on May 20; several guest appearances were made over the air at WBTA; and Mrs. L. L. Mulcahy, Sr., Chairman of Hostesses appeared on a television program in Rochester at WHAM.

The various clubs at the "Y" were alerted and worked tirelessly. The Newcomers Club operated a "Canteen"; coffee, ice cream, and home-made cakes being served, at an excellent profit.

Mrs. Sidney T. Cooper, and Mrs. Sidney A. Sherwin, co-chairmen of the program, worked many long hours securing ads for the program

# *An African*

## *Violet Show*

Norma S. Annabal

which turned out to be a regular book covered in heavy gold colored paper with purple African violets as decoration, interesting to all, and paid for by the ads.

Mrs. Raymond Moore and Mrs. Elliott G. Moulton, co-chairmen of staging and properties, turned our drab gray gym into a "veritable fairyland" with more than 370 beautiful violet specimens covering three long white covered tables with raised centers. The wall decorations were lifelike, hand-made colorful hibiscus with honeysuckle vines and as a fitting background for the spot lighted "Queen of the Show," a huge crayon mural done especially for the show by an artist, Mary McKone Smith fitted into the violet scheme. The tables were also equipped with wire, strung six inches out to protect the plants from the press of the throng and prevent the temptation to handle the lovely leaves and blooms.

The attractive displays of the professional growers, grouped around the outside added to the color and interest. It would seem that at the next show they should have some type of railing set around them for protection, for the crowds were quite heavy at times.

Miss E. Mae Crompton set up the educational table, which contained a wealth of information of particular interest to the novice, as well as others. It illustrated the care and development of seedlings, soil mixtures, leaf propagation and the use of plant food and sprays. I believe this could be enlarged to provide information in the form of answers to problems concerning blooms, discolored leaves, etc. It was astounding to me, the number of people who were asking questions all this time. A central information booth might be the answer, or possibly this is a tip for some of the professional growers.

The hostesses and various Chairmen had boutonniere made of tiny shells in the form of violets with the particular insignia attached to pin on the lapel or shoulders.

We were so worried that there would not be enough plants entered, that we asked all our friends and relatives to "please" bring theirs. (They did, as well as two or three hundred others





Interested visitors look over show.

from other sections, Canada, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.) These were not entries but spectators.

The approximate 373 entries surprised us, the entry committee, into a complete flurry, but by drafting some willing workers, together with the teamwork of Mrs. Coniber and Mrs. Fred Flory from Geneseo, making the classifications so quickly and surely, there was not too long a wait for those entering their plants. We learned that it would facilitate matters if at the next show the members of the classification committee see each plant and mark it with its proper classification number so there would be no "forgetting" between the classification and entry, and weed out multiple crowns into the proper class. It is surprising how many did not recognize a multiple crown plant, and I was one. That is why we are hoping enough interest has been created by this show to start a club with resulting education in violet habits for many more.

What a difficult task the judges must have had; but Mr. Henry Ten Hagen of Warsaw, Mrs. Robert Slocomb, president of the Rochester Club, and Mr. Lewis Cook of Gainesville, went about the job quietly and efficiently, while Mr. Walter W. Stroh, a local florist judged the decorative class. The National Point System was used in judging, with the awards for each class of violets being blue, red, and yellow ribbons. Then there were three special awards. To the exhibitor re-

ceiving the largest number of ribbons was given the "sweepstakes" award of a "First Aid Kit" for African Violets, presented by Virdans Farms of Phelps; a rosette and autographed copy of "All About African Violets" by Montague Free, contributed by Sleght's Book Store of Batavia was given to the owner of "Queen of the Show;" for the best exhibit in the decorative class, Lewis Cook of Gainesville contributed a two-piece hand-made pottery violet container.

The Big Moment, for me at least, was when the whispered word went around, that Mr. Floyd L. Johnson, president of the African Violet Society of America was there. And sure enough. We appreciated the "moral support" he gave us and the gracious compliments.

There were hundreds of people attending from early Friday until late Saturday from all over, including the bordering states and Canada. All seemed impressed with the display, and what is best, they were enthusiastic. It was a happy sounding throng as they looked over the violets. Many who were unable to attend will not miss the next one for anything. Many who did not realize how many and what beautiful varieties there are, left, talking in terms of buying plants so they could exhibit. And as weary as I was at the end of the show, rank amateur that I am, next year I shall be willing to work again with this exception, I, too, shall be an exhibitor. Yes the bug has bit me too.



# A KEY TO THE GENUS SAINTPAULIA

Evan Roberts, E. Lansing, Mich.

The genus *Saintpaulia* has become known in cultivation as the African violet. Seven of the nine described species have been grown in the orchid house of the Horticulture Greenhouse at Michigan State College during the past years.

When *Saintpaulia* was first introduced from German East Africa by A. E. Walter R. von Saint Paul-Illaire in 1892 it included two closely allied species, *S. ionantha* H. Wendland and another species which was not then recognized as distinct. Later the existence of two species was discovered. The true *S. ionantha* was given a second name, *S. kewensis*, and the other was incorrectly called *S. ionantha*. The discovery of *S. tongwensis* and *S. orbicularis* assisted in clearing up this confusion. We are indebted to Mr. B. L. Burtt for a full explanation of this in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* (London), ser. 3, 122, 23 (1947). Mr. Burtt has renamed the second of the species of the original introduction *S. diplotricha*.

The described species of *Saintpaulia* are contained within two mountain groups and within these groups of mountains they are sharply localized. One example will suffice to show this localization. *S. tongwensis* is restricted to a ledge of gneiss 50 yards long near the summit of Mt. Tongwe at 2,300 -- 2,400 feet. There are indications that it may become necessary to describe additional possible species which have been reported in other East African areas of high altitude.

When using the following key it should be kept in mind that under certain environmental conditions the vegetative parts of plants may become slightly modified. For this reason it is suggested that this key be used together with the photographs and descriptions of the species of *Saintpaulia* as they have appeared in volumes 3, 4 and 5 of the *African Violet Magazine*. Following the key are drawings and a glossary to illustrate technical words used in the key.

## KEY

- A. Stems branched, procumbent; pubescence of two types of hairs
  - B. Marginal hairs on corolla glandular
    - C. Leaf margins crenate-dentate; leaf bases subcordate; lower leaf surface greenish-white
      - D. Stamminodes 3; leaves suborbicular, obtuse at apices .... *S. grotei*
      - D.D. Stamminodes 2; leaves ovate, acute at apices .. *S. amaniensis*
      - C.C. Leaf margins entire; leaf bases obtusely rounded; lower leaf surface purplish; staminodes 3 ..... *S. goetzeana*
    - B.B. Marginal hairs on corolla non-glandular; staminodes 3; leaf margins crenate; leaf bases subcordate; leaves suborbicular to orbicular, obtuse at apices; under leaf surface greenish-white ..... *S. magungensis*
  - A.A. Stems unbranched, short, the plants apparently acaulescent; marginal hairs of the corolla glandular
    - B. Pubescence on upper surface of leaves of only one type of hair, all hairs spreading
      - C. Stamminodes 3; pubescence of petioles and peduncles of two kinds, the short ones retrorsely appressed, the long ones spreading; leaves medium to pale green above, whitish green below ..... *S. tongwensis*
      - C.C. Stamminodes 2; pubescence of petiole and peduncles of long and short hairs, all spreading; leaves dark green above, purplish below ..... *S. ionantha*
    - B.B. Pubescence on upper surface of leaves, petioles and peduncles of two types of hairs, the short ones antrorsely appressed.
      - C. Leaf margins crenate; leaves cordate or subcordate at base, acute or obtuse at apices; flowers 1.5 cm. or more in diameter; filaments shorter than corolla lobes
        - D. Leaves ovate to ovate-lanceolate, acute at apices; flowers uniform in color, varying from dark to pale violet ..... *S. diplotricha*
      - D.D. Leaves orbicular, obtuse at apices, flowers pale, lobes whitish, with dark ring near filaments, outer surface with pale crimson midvein .... *S. orbicularis*
    - C.C. Leaf margins entire; leaves obtuse at both ends, violet below; flowers about 1 cm. in diameter, the filaments as long as corolla lobes ..... *S. pusilla*



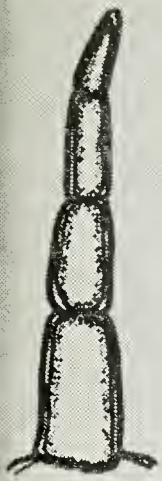


FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.

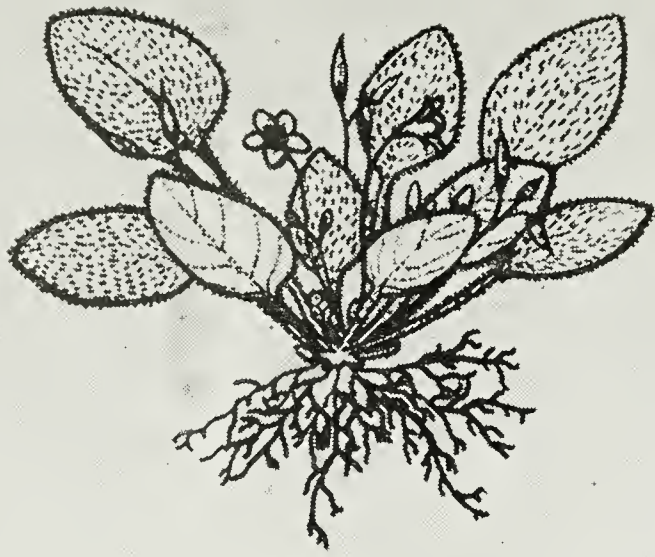


FIG. 3.



FIG. 4.

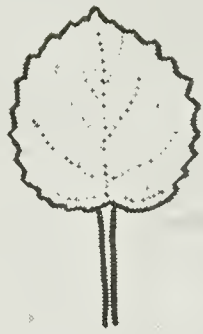


FIG. 5.

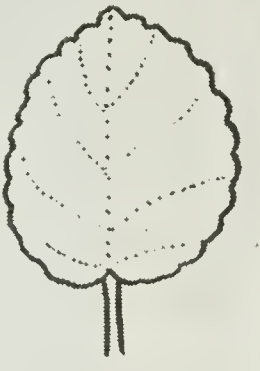


FIG. 6.

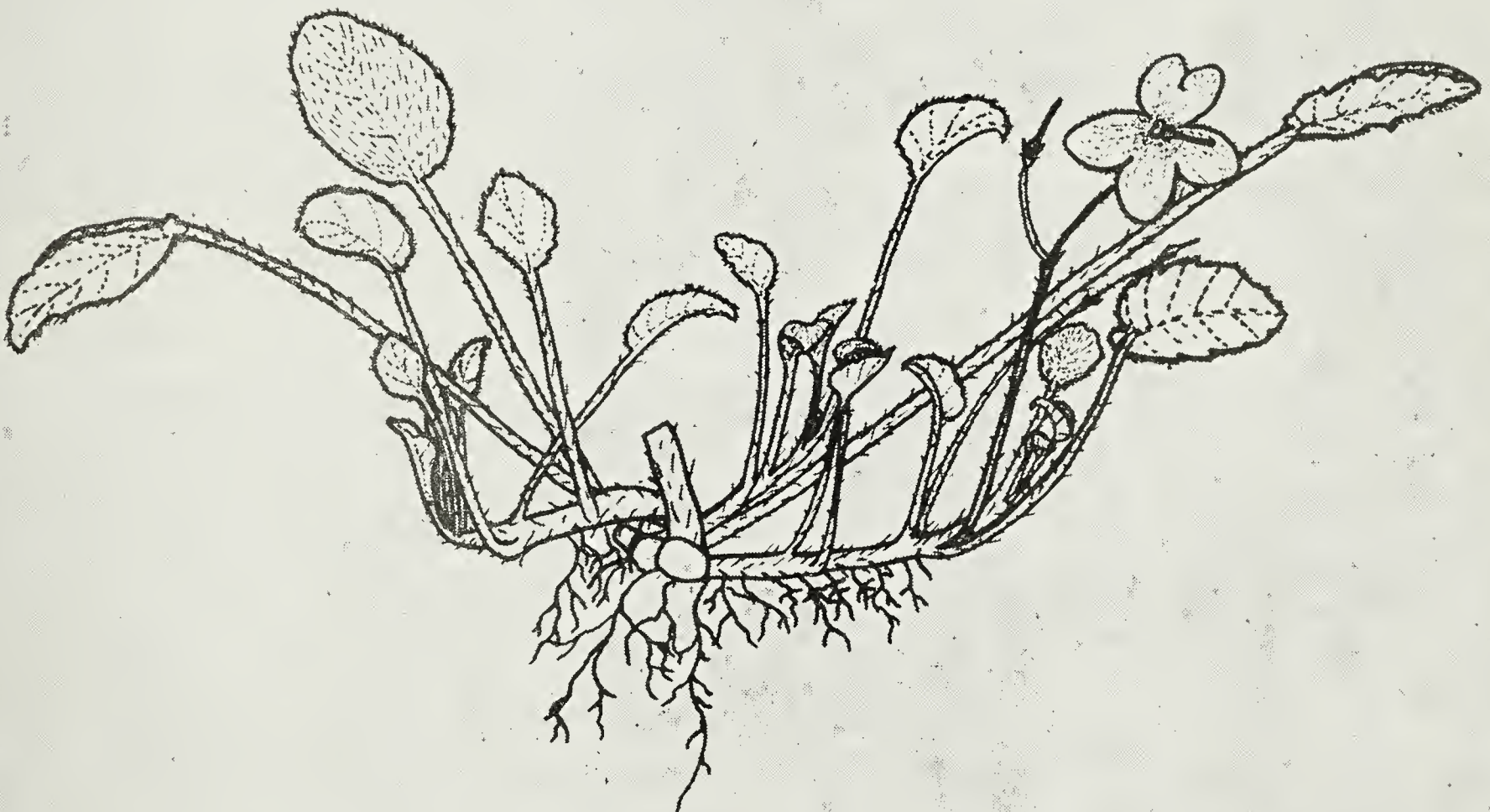


FIG. 7.



FIG. 8.



FIG. 9.

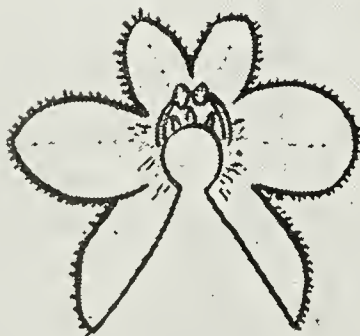


FIG. 10.



FIG. 11.

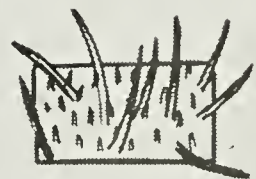


FIG. 12.

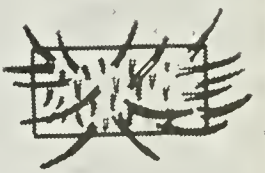


FIG. 13.



## EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

Fig. 1. Non-glandular hair on corolla margin.

Fig. 2. Glandular hair on corolla margin.

Fig. 3. Plant with short, unbranched stem (acaulescent).

Fig. 4. Leaf with entire margins.

Fig. 5. Leaf with dentate margins.

Fig. 6. Leaf with crenate margins.

Fig. 7. Plant with procumbent branched stems.

Fig. 8. Flower of *Saintpaulia ionantha* H. Wendland.

Fig. 9. Same as Fig. 8 except that lower petal has been cut and separated to show location of two staminodes.

Fig. 10. Flower of *Saintpaulia grotei* A. Engler cut and separated to show location of three staminodes.

Fig. 11. Flower of *Saintpaulia pusilla* A. Engler cut and separated to show long filaments of the stamens and the staminodes.

Fig. 12. Stem section showing long and short hairs. The short hairs are antrorsely appressed.

Fig. 13. Stem section showing long and short hairs. The short ones retrorsely appressed.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN KEY

ACAULESCENT. Stemless, or apparently stemless. (Fig. 7).

ACUTE. Sharp, ending in a point. (Fig. 5).

ANTRORSELY. Bent or turned over forward or upward. (Fig. 12; short hairs).

APEX. The tip or distal end. (Pl. Apices) (See Fig. 4, 5, 6).

APPRESSED. Closely and flatly pressed against.

CORDATE. Heart-shaped; with a sinus and rounded lobes at the base, and ovate in general

outline; often restricted to the basal portion rather than to outline of the entire organ. (Fig. 6).

COROLLA. Inner circle or second whorl of floral envelopes; if the parts are separate, they are petals, if they are not separate, they are teeth, lobes, divisions, or are undifferentiated. (Fig. 8).

CRENATE. Shallowly round-tooth or obtusely toothed, scalloped. (Fig. 6).

DENTATE. With sharp, spreading, rather coarse indentations or teeth that are perpendicular to the margin. (Fig. 5).

ENTIRE. With a continuous margin; not in any way indented; whole may or may not be hairy or ciliate. (Fig. 4).

FILAMENTS. Thread; particularly the stalk of the stamen, terminated by the anther. (Figs. 8, 9, 10, 11).

GLANDULAR. Furnished with glands. (Fig. 2).

LANCEOLATE. Lance-shaped; widening above the base and tapering to the apex.

LOBE. A part of petal that represents a division to about the middle. (Figs. 8, 9, 10, 11).

OBTUSE. Blunt, rounded. (Fig. 4).

ORBICULAR. Circular or disc shaped.

OVATE. With an outline like that of a hen's egg, the broader end below the middle (Fig. 4).

PEDUNCLES. Stalk of a flower cluster, or of a solitary flower when that flower is the remainder of an inflorescence. (Fig. 7).

PETIOLES. Leaf stalk. (Figs. 4, 5, 6).

PROCUMBENT. Trailing or lying flat. (Fig. 7).

PUBESCENCE. Covered with short soft hairs: downy. (Figs. 3, 7).

RETRORSELY. Bent or turned over backwards or downwards. (Fig. 13; Short hairs).

STAMINODES. A sterile stamen, or a structure resembling such and borne in the staminal part of the flower. (Figs. 9, 10, 11).

SUB- As a prefix, usually signifying somewhat, slightly or rather.

The author expresses his gratitude to Dr. Charles L. Gilly, Department of Botany, Michigan State College for his assistance in the preparation of this key.





Fluorescent lighted trays produce excellent plants for Mrs. Huber.

## *House Plants - My Choice is African Violets*

Dorothe L. Huber, Galva, Ill.

I first became interested in African violets when my mother received one as a gift some fifteen years ago. It lived on and on but never bloomed, as I remember it. There was no information on the subject available to her and she tried everything but it just sat, dusty and dull looking, with no blooms. I bought a plant now and then when I ran across one but had no more success than my mother with them until I acquired the book "Enjoy Your House Plants," by Helen Van Pelt Wilson and Dorothy H. Jenkins. Then I began to try a little harder and followed some of their suggestions but violets were still more or less of a mystery to me.

At that time I had an interesting collection of begonias which took lots of room in my windows.

When I had collected about twenty African violets and was starting to raise a few myself from leaf cuttings I bought a 'bargain' from a greenhouse: a gnarled and crowded plant, for thirty-five cents. I took it home, divided it and awaited developments. They weren't long coming -- it must have been loaded with Cyclamen mites and in a few weeks I lost every plant I had. A violet dealer in Iowa diagnosed the ailment from my letter description and told me about sodium selenate, but in my haste to treat the plants, I unintentionally used too strong a solution and killed the last ones in a matter of minutes.

Needless to say, I was discouraged and I disposed of all the violet pots, etc., and concentrated on begonias for a year or two.

But those violets kept attracting my eye everywhere I went and I wanted to take them home. A lady I knew and saw often raised them in her home. She had three colors or maybe four and I started to buy them from her and then began to send for them. New varieties, doubles, girl leaves. Oh! They were exciting!

I bought Helen Wilson's book "The African Violet," after I had practically memorized her booklet put out by Ladies Home Journal, and what a fund of information that book contains!

Suddenly I had to have more room for violets and I gave my once precious begonias to a friend and turned over one window after another to violets. Of course, I began to sell the surplus plants to make room for new ones, and so on, 'till now I have about one hundred varieties and don't even try to get away from this wonderful hobby. I have a "pseudo-Victorian" parlor, mostly furnished with the results of my addiction to the needle-point hobby and I thought that room would always be kept "just so," even if violets sort of took over every other room. But wouldn't you know it? -- the three big windows -- east and south -- in the parlor now have the blinds sky

Cont. on Page 69



# *A Report from England . .*

## JOY HUTSON'S STORY

**A**lmost eighteen months have rolled around since becoming a Saintpaulia enthusiast, and thanks to my dear friend, Mrs. Catherine Shepherd of Arlington, Virginia, who sends me seeds, plants and your delightful and interesting book, *The African Violet Magazine*, I really feel that at long last I have acquired much more knowledge as to the growing of these beautiful plants.

At first I didn't find it at all easy, owing to our "never two days alike" weather we experience here in England. One moment the temperature can be in the region of 80 degrees, the next it can drop to 45 degrees.

Catherine began to take an interest in me when she read an article of mine in one of our gardening books. Whether she approved of it or not I do not know; but she wrote, asking if I would like some Saintpaulia seed. Her enthusiasm and knowledge of the Gesneriaceae family was really too much for me to digest, (I must tell you that I have studied gardening for over twenty years) and so I found myself getting profoundly interested. I could hardly wait for the seed to arrive.

At the time I only possessed a very small lean-to greenhouse, so the first thing I did was to buy an oil heater, one with a water tray on top, for Catherine said the plants needed humidity.

Mrs. Hutson



Luton, Beds, England

The seeds duly arrived and were planted in Vermiculite (Exflor) and placed on top of the hot water tray. After several weeks, though it seemed like years, I noticed a tiny green speck through the magnifying glass. At last, I thought, I shall have at least one plant. A few days went by, and lo and behold, the dish was filled with what looked like mustard and cress. Could it be possible they were all Saintpaulias, or were they mostly weeds? Oh, the excitement when I examined them through the magnifying glass! "Now I really can give myself a pat on the back," said I to myself.

The dish was placed on the staging in the greenhouse with the oil heater underneath. But to my disappointment the seedlings remained stationary. I wrote to Catherine who assured me that I couldn't expect them to grow in such a low temperature as 45 degrees. "They'll grow fast enough when the warmer weather comes along." What a long wait it seemed until Spring arrived. The seeds grew slowly and were picked out as soon as I could handle them. But although the days were sunny, the nights were very frosty; the temperature never rose above 45 degrees during the night, in spite of the extra warmth given through my wrapping up the greenhouse in blankets. I again wrote to Catherine, and she must have thought me most impatient, for she wrote to say that she was sending some plants by air.

This, I thought, was really too good to be true. Nothing like this had ever happened to me before. My first thought was, "How on earth will I ever be able to pay for them?" For we are not allowed to send currency out of the country. The box of plants arrived but was, unfortunately, held by customs as one of the accompanying forms had got lost. Oh dear, what a to-do there was! So near and yet so far. I put through telephone calls to the Customs almost daily, sent air letters to Catherine, and between us, we put up such a fight for the plants that after six weeks the Customs, as a favor to Catherine, released them. By this time I had said goodbye to what ever there was in the box, but on opening same I found six plants that I thought might recover. I've often told Catherine that she must be the world's best packer, for it took me seven hours to unpack the plants.

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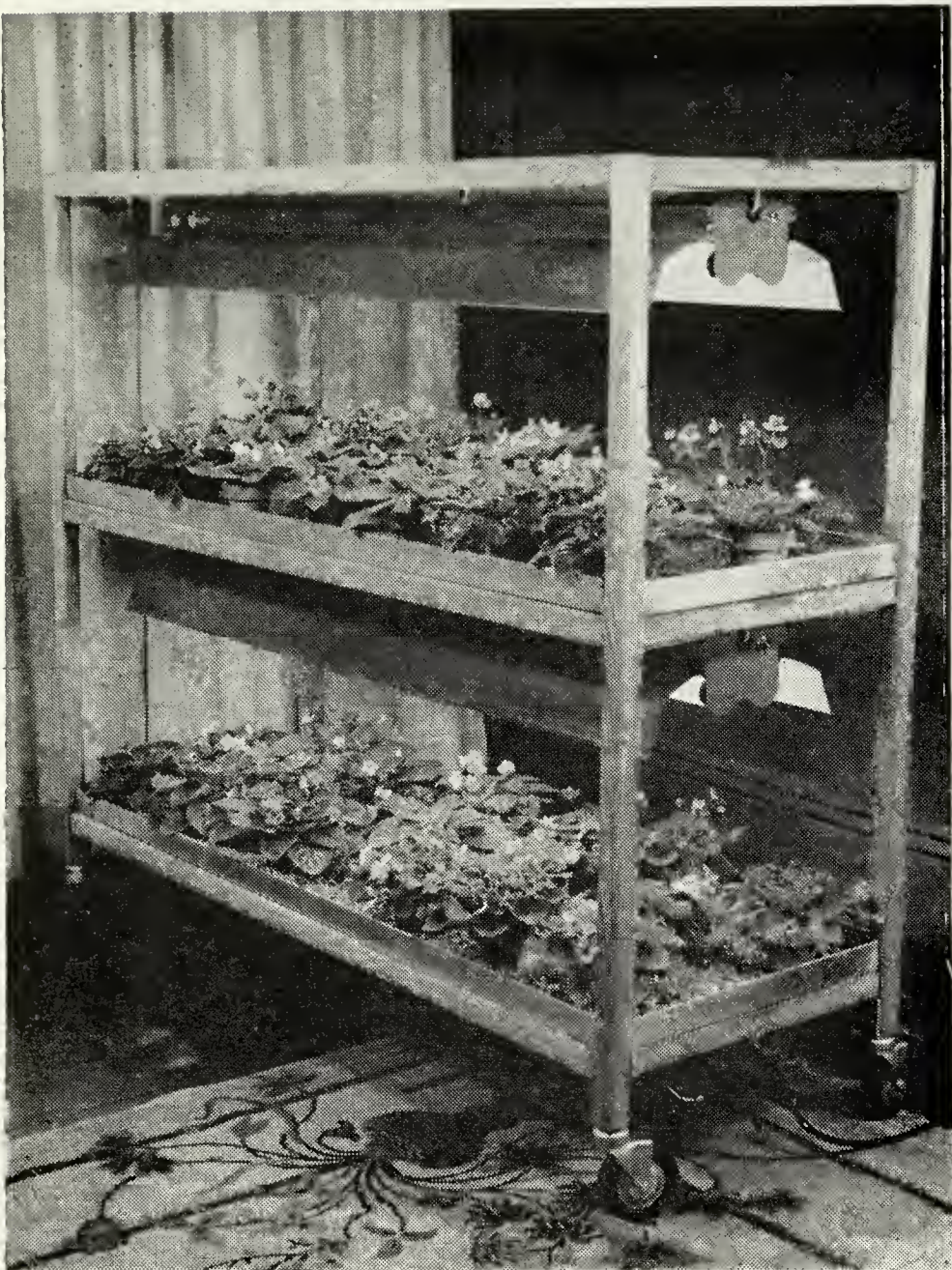




These pictures of the plants of Joy Hutson, Beds, England was taken when the temperature had dropped to 42 degrees in her greenhouse, with the plants still looking hale and hardy despite the cold. The Saintpaulia are growing alongside ferns and moss, a banana plant, Naegelias, Jaearandas, pineapple in the hanging basket, Abulition, Plumbago, Hibiscus, and hosts of tropical and sub-tropical plants which were all grown from seed this year.







Living for many years in an apartment on Chicago's north side with very limited space and insufficient natural light to raise satisfying African violets has made us anxious to find a way to improve our amateur efforts. We believe that many, many others, have the same problems which can be eliminated with the proper use of fluorescent light culture.

Our interest in fluorescent light for the culture of African violets was aroused by the picture and article in last June's issue of "African Violet Magazine" by Naomi S. Weeks, who is proprietor of Naomi's African Violet Rooms located in Brockport, N. Y. This picture, to our knowledge, was the first that actually showed violets under high intensity light conditions although we knew others were growing under lower intensities. The accompanying article was of so much interest that we made a trip to Brockport to discuss fluorescent lighting with some one who is pioneering this method of violet culture.

There we found many kinds of light beds in use, one actually containing thirty-two 40 watt fluorescent lamps, which quickly convinced us that proper fluorescent intensity was the answer to many African violet problems. We saw violets being successfully grown in all stages, from swelling seed pods and planted leaves to fully developed plants, all healthy and thriving as a result of artificial light. The plants were symmetrical, the foliage outstanding, and as for blossoms -- we never had the pleasure of seeing such an abundance of bloom. Mrs. Weeks willingly gave us full information on her lighting experiments

# Portable Light Bed for African Violets

Bruce L. Culbertson, Ill.

After discussing fluorescent lighting and portable units for use in small quarters, we felt that the answer had been found to several of our most serious problems as listed herewith:

1. Where can we place extra plants, as the apartment is full.
2. We like violets, but do not wish them all over our place.
3. Window space is limited and children or elder members of the family may be deprived of views.
4. The apartment is dry in winter, causing low humidity (ans: many plants grouped together help furnish and retain higher humidity).
5. Why don't violets bloom all winter (ans: cloudy days and insufficient light intensity to set buds can be controlled with a light bed).

Some ladies complain that window shelf violets require considerable attention:

- A. Constant turning to produce symmetrical shape
- B. Shading to prevent burning in summer
- C. Removal from windows on cold winter nights
- D. Considerable watering and cleaning time

Fluorescent lamps control light requirements for symmetrical growth and bud formation, saves much time in watering because of higher humidity in groups and less drying air currents passing up and over shelves. Lamp reflectors form a canopy over the plants protecting them from collecting dust from the air currents and thus eliminating foliage spraying. When window-shelf plants are sprayed or have wet foliage, they must be dried before replacing in windows -- as the sun shining through window panes will burn wet foliage. Fluorescent light will not burn the foliage and plants can be safely splashed with water -- if the water temperature is slightly higher than the foliage or room temperature.

Cont. on Page 67





Left —

Mrs. Gillette with watering can in hand checking her plants.

As these pictures so nicely illustrate Mrs. Gillette's beautiful plants show the result of her effort in finding the cause of her buds but no bloom difficulty. Persistence usually results in success.



## Buds But No Blooms

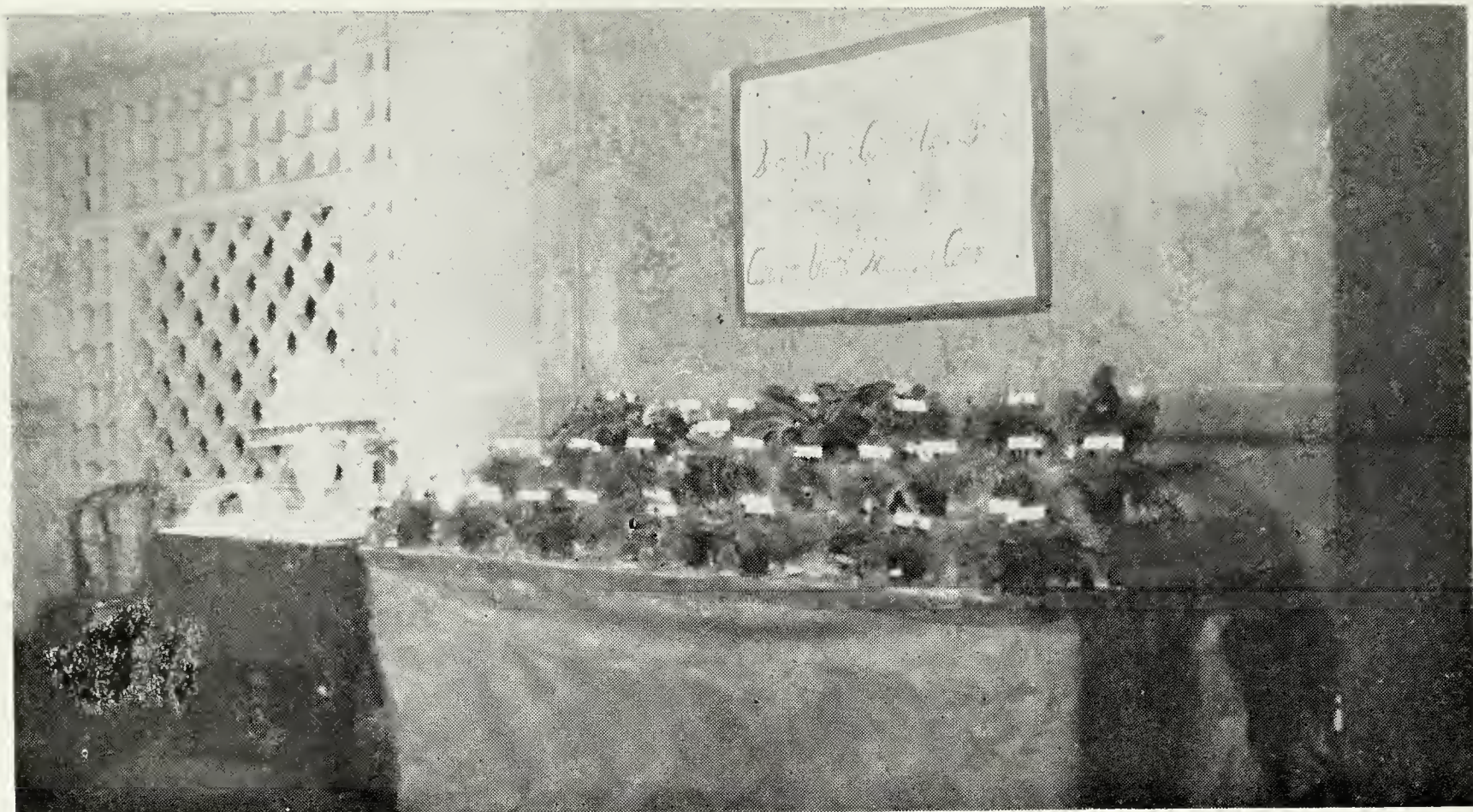
**M**y first introduction to the African Violet Magazine was through a search for the cure of my violet's strange malady. I had searched through all the literature on which I could get my hands, trying to find out why my plants would bud but never bloom. I tried many varieties from all over the United States seeking to find a variety that would resist the "disease" that had affected all my plants since I had been given my first violet three years before.

Jennie Gillette, Iowa

I had been so proud of my violets, given to me on Easter by my husband and son-in-law. I fell in love with them from the first moment I saw them, and in the first few weeks had swapped leaves and plants with my sister-in-law and many of my friends. Already I had a start of several

Cont. on Page 50





The interesting exhibit of the San Jocquin, California Society.

## SHOW *NEWS and VIEWS*

### CHATTANOOGA TENNESSEE

THE CHATTANOOGA VIOLET SOCIETY, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, combined their Violet Show with a lovely installation tea, in which Mrs. George Martin was installed as president; Mrs. Paul Gillespie, Sr., first vice-president; Mrs. Robert Bruce, second vice-president; Mrs. K. C. Gustafson, third vice-president; Mrs. N. Rowe Burgner, recording secretary; Mrs. Charles Bledsoe, corresponding secretary; Mrs. L. L. Laughlin, treasurer; Mrs. K. C. Flagg, parliamentarian; and Mrs. Charles Herman, poet. The installation officer was Mrs. Prince Eades.

In the flower show, Mrs. Sue Watson won the tricolor award for the best plant, "Heart's Desire." Mrs. F. L. Broome won the most blue ribbons and Mrs. Gustafson won the most blue ribbons in the novice section. The best in the double-crown section was awarded to W. A. Brown, and the best double-flowering plant was that of Mrs. Broome.

Mrs. Mae O'Neal Parker was in charge of the program and gave a review of the past year. Mrs. G. N. Boyd was in charge of table decorations. Many guests were present at the show and tea.

Seated, Mrs. George Martin and Mrs. Prince Eads, Standing, Mrs. Robert Bruce, Mrs. Paul Gillespie, Sr. and Mrs. Rowe Burgner.







THE

SECRETARY'S

REPORT

*and this is what  
she wrote —*

Being a secretary is no small job, but it is an even greater task when meetings are continually interrupted by bits of the latest gossip. During these discussions, the secretary must decide what SHOULD and what SHOULD NOT be recorded. One exasperated officer not only threatened, but finally did take down everything that was said at a particular meeting, and when the president called for the secretary's report the following month, this is what the astonished members heard:

"The meeting was called to order by the president. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The topic 'Expected Babies' was discussed by Mrs. D. and Mrs. M. (Both expectant grandmothers). Mrs. F. told of her sister's wedding. She also stated that she smelled like a horse, as she had put dog dressing on her hair for dandruff.

Miss Mary Jane H. burst in to ask her mother the price of ink. Mrs. F. has a baby plant with only four leaves and a bud stem. Mary Aspirin was reported doing fine. (Mary Aspirin is a plant which our president gave an aspirin tablet). Then followed a discussion on protecting plants from the sun. Mrs. E. showed her plants to the club . . . She also showed a sick plant which was diagnosed as having root-rot and her new fall hat, a funnel shaped, purple felt with four roses.

The best road into New York City was reported on by Mrs. H. and Mrs. B. The subject of nerves and blood pressure was then discussed in



*a funnel shaped purple  
felt — with four roses*

detail by all. Garlic was highly recommended as helpful in lowering blood pressure. Mrs. F. was heard muttering in a hoarse whisper, "No wonder the stuff lowers blood pressure. The smell should guarantee that you'll be left strictly alone."

The use of bone-meal in potting soil was discussed. There are also bone-meal tablets you can take, but no one could remember just what they were good for.

The meeting was adjourned to meet at Mrs. D's. next month."

Would your club's true minutes look well in print? Better think it over!



# Selection in Collecting

Eunice Toms, Alexandria, Va.

The average collector (Saintpaulias, antique glass, or anything else), if absolutely frank, will admit that collecting begins as a desire to possess something of beauty that appeals to the particular individual. They will have to admit further that, as the collecting mania develops, the desire to possess beauty becomes but about ten percent of the operation -- the remaining ninety percent is given over to sheer acquisition and avarice. They become accumulators of anything and everything along their particular line and upon which they can lay hands.

Saintpaulia collectors generally begin quite sanely with a Blue Boy and, after becoming fascinated with its beauty, add a White Lady, Pink Beauty and Blue Girl. The cornerstone of a collection is thereby cemented into place. Building eventually spreads out and around the cornerstone with additions to the collection, the work involved and the inconvenience that results.

Advertising the fact that African violets are of easy propagation is ill-advised. Collecting ceases to be a specialty when to it is added propagation. In some instances, propagation is a necessity, for it is frequently the only means of adding certain varieties to a collection, i. e. by way of leaf purchases. Propagation for this purpose is not condemned. Unsystematic and unnecessary propagation of every variety in a collection is not commendable. It is merely foolhardy. Unfortunately, most of the people who began simply as collectors eventually branch out to become propagators as well; and others still further into the field of hybridization. All three branches are highly specialized and, while included in the general hobby of African violets, should, nevertheless, be considered as three separate and distinct hobbies. Collectors should adhere to collecting alone and leave the propagating and hybridizing to specialists in all three branches. It is therefore, far wiser to remain a collector. By the same token, the propagator and hybridizer should first be prepared with enough room and facilities to carry out his, or her, specialized branch with ease.

As aforementioned, collecting is an Art; the gathering of beauty -- piece by piece as our purse permits. It must be emphasized, however, that the contents of our wallet or the extent of our bank account should NOT be the sole means of determining the extent to which we can indulge in our hobby. The prime, and most important factor, is, and should be, space. Not merely adequate space but also space suitable for the proper care, condition and display of our treasures.

Collections are not gathered to be stored in a dark cabinet. They are displayed and enjoyed. To be enjoyed, a display should have finesse, balance, and be unencumbered with unnecessary details -- or over-abundance. Plates on a plate rack are only beautiful when they can be viewed separately or as part of a pattern. If they stand one before the other, or stacked one on top of the other, they lose their purpose and have absolutely no value as things of beauty -- they become just a stack of dishes. So it is with a collection of Saintpaulias.

## ACCOMMODATION

The average window in a home will accommodate from three to twelve plants -- depending upon size and how the windows are shelved. There should be plenty of "arm" room for the plants and no overlapping or crowding. THEY SHOULD ALSO BE MATURE PLANTS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION AND OF GOOD SHAPE.

How many plants have you in your window? Quite probably there are too many. As an experiment, remove your plants from the shelves, then replace them. Do you find you have one plant left over? If so, your window held not only one plant too many but probably several. If they cannot be turned without removal from the window shelf, or from hitting another plant, there are too many. Remember always that your windows are the showcases of your home and that a good showcase contains a few choice articles artistically displayed. It is not a jumble of quantity. Here quality counts.

Are your plants getting the correct exposure? Have you HAD to make use of a window where the sun is too bright, or the light too dim? If you have, you again have too many plants. Do you have to shield your plants with unsightly waxed paper at the window? If so, it is a wrong exposure for that time of year and should not be used. One does not display a diamond on a newspaper, neither should one display an African violet against a back-drop of waxed paper.

If you can conveniently and properly place twenty plants and still show sixty, then you are not being fair with the objects of your affection. You are committing the crime of devaluating their purpose and beauty. You do not have a collection -- merely a plant patch.

Cont. on Page 74





Salt Lake City

Wednesday

My Dear Daughter:

I am **boiling** mad! I didn't tell you about my violets when I wrote yesterday, for I hadn't had time to look at them. But I looked today, and, gosh! Here's what happened:

Before I left for Phoenix, I had an order for Mrs. Jones from the Burg for 35 small plants. Now all **my** plants are in aluminum pans planted in Vermiculite. So I planted 35 plants in soil in small pots and put them on a tray in a chair in the southeast bedroom -- unfortunately right by my trays of plants in Vermiculite. I put two notes on them saying, "These violets in pots are for Mrs. Jones," just to be sure; then I took your Dad in and showed him the potted plants and said, emphasizing, "These violets in **pots** are for Mrs. Jones when she comes for them Saturday." Then I repeated it, then asked him, "You understand, now?" He assured me that he did.

When I returned from Phoenix, a quick glance showed pans, pots, and trays all interchanged. The ones from the dresser were even on chairs and everything was mixed around. The next day I went in to figure it out. "Where is my milk carton with the seven extra-special plants that are not for sale?"

Dad answered, "I let her have them when she picked up the pots."

"Where is that extra long tray of rooted leaves that was on the chair, which you now have full of bowls?" I continued, now a little hysterically.

"I let her have them, too."

"Oh! No!" I started to bawl -- then I started to howl!

In those pots and trays I had had 100 choice leaf cuttings packed tight with tiny plants, six or seven of which were all ready to divide. These cuttings were from plants brought back east in May, and were of all the latest kinds, priced at \$2.00 to \$2.50 a plant. When I had to dispose of all my violets in the basement because I could no longer climb the stairs, those were all I had saved of those nice, choice plants and were definitely not for sale at any time.

When I had cried and cried, Dad said, "Now, Grandma!" (That's his pet expression, since Mother, who is now 81, cries when things go wrong.) You may be sure that after that he quickly left the house! After I had calmed down a bit I started to write, but then called Mrs. Jones to ask her to bring back my tray of undivided, rooted leaves and my milk carton with my seven precious lovelies.

"They sold like hot cakes!" she said. And to add insult to injury, she had sold them four-clumps-for-a-dollar. Those were clumps of Azure Beauty (six in a clump), Pink Cheer, Sailor's Delight, Velvet Girl, Rose Double, Wine Velvet, Double Orchid Girl, Double White, all of the new ones -- all sold four clumps at a dollar.

"My phone just kept ringing and ringing. They just gobbled them up!" she said. And no wonder. Four clumps for a dollar!

I have just had to write this letter by parts, because I'm so d--m mad. You know, last summer he sold my only two blooming pinks to a neighbor while I visited your grandmother in Logan. And believe me, . . . I gave strict orders then to leave my violets to **me**, and **me** only.

What's more, he had offered to varnish around the rug in the bedroom while I was in Phoenix and I said, "Definitely, no. I want to move my violets myself when you varnish." But this didn't dampen his enthusiasm a bit, and the first thing I noticed when I got home was a mess of Vermiculite on the rug. The reason was obvious. My two tables that I had wanted to keep brown were now white, painted by "Your Father," who had attempted to move the violets and spilled them on the rug. "If he were a kid, I would skin him alive!"

I have nine bucks toward my next visit to Phoenix with you, but I am now using it to buy back some of the violets Mrs. Jones fell heir to.

Four clumps for a dollar!

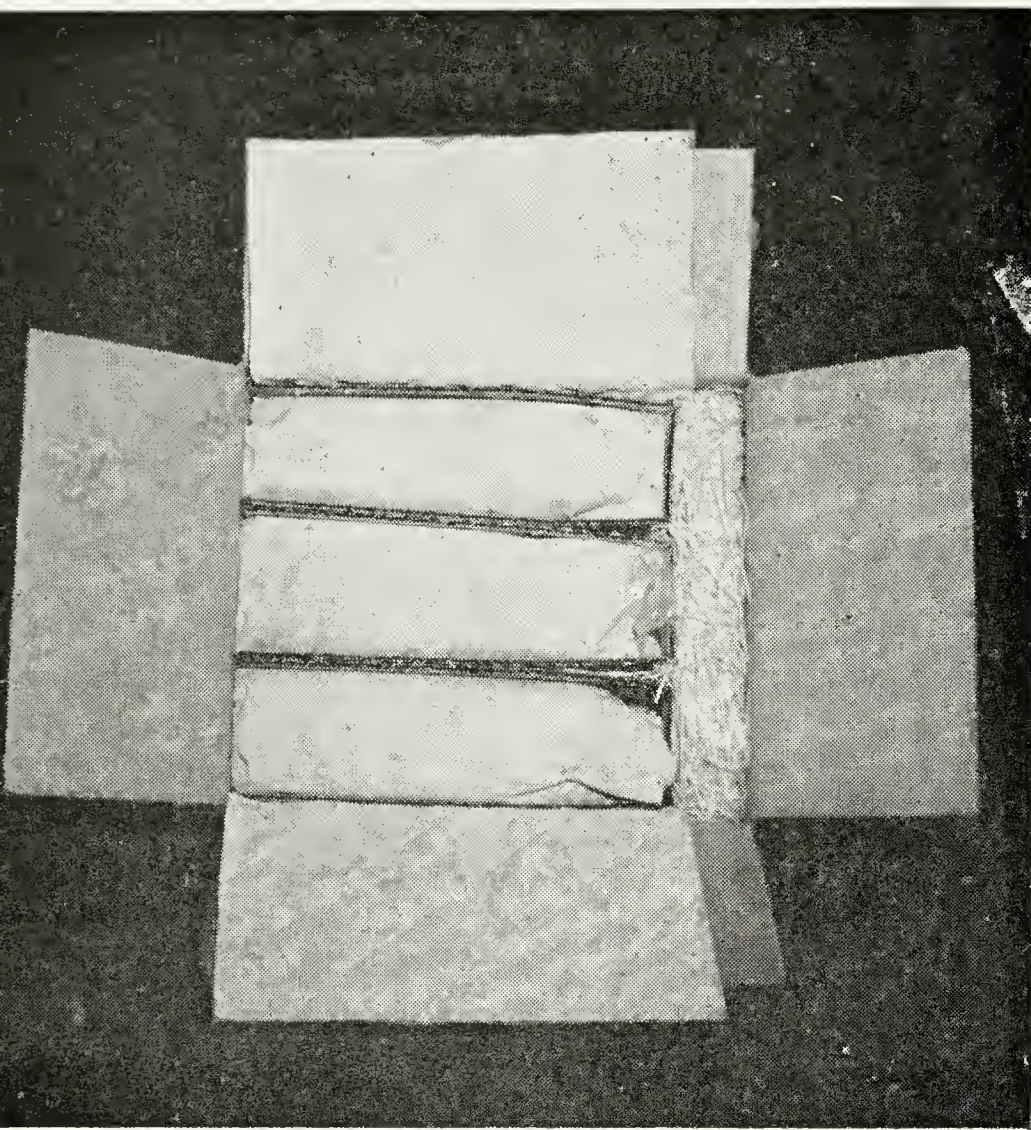
Mum

P. S. I'm too mad to even write "love" at the end of your letter. I guess I'll try to eat some breakfast now, although it will probably sour and kill me. I'm too mad to even drink my tea. Your Dad! Oh!



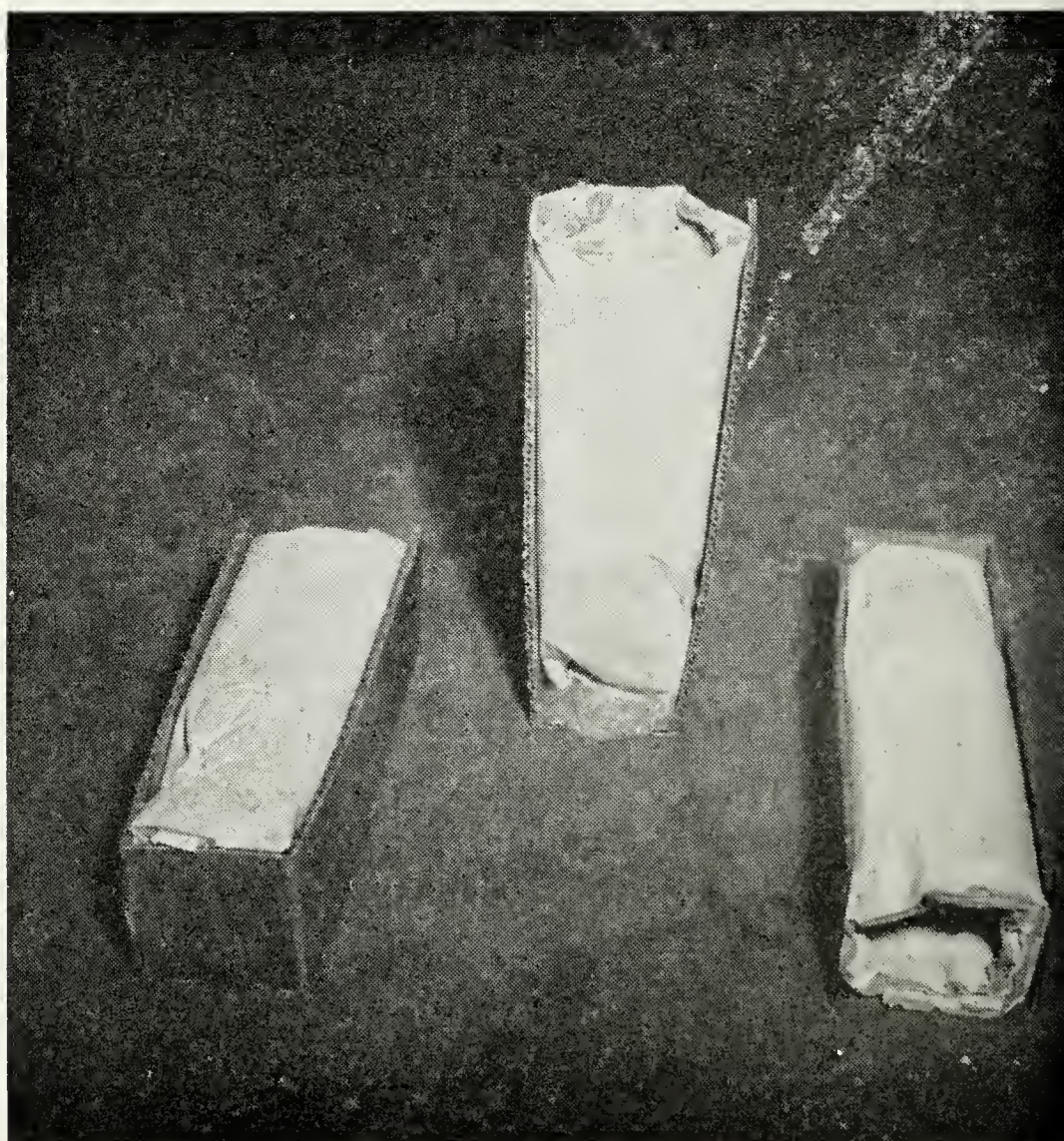
# Perfectly Packed

## FISCHER FLOWERS METHOD OF PACKAGING



Left — The wrapping paper is off and the carton of plants is opened. Each package in the carton is securely in place. There has been no bumping around of violets in this box.

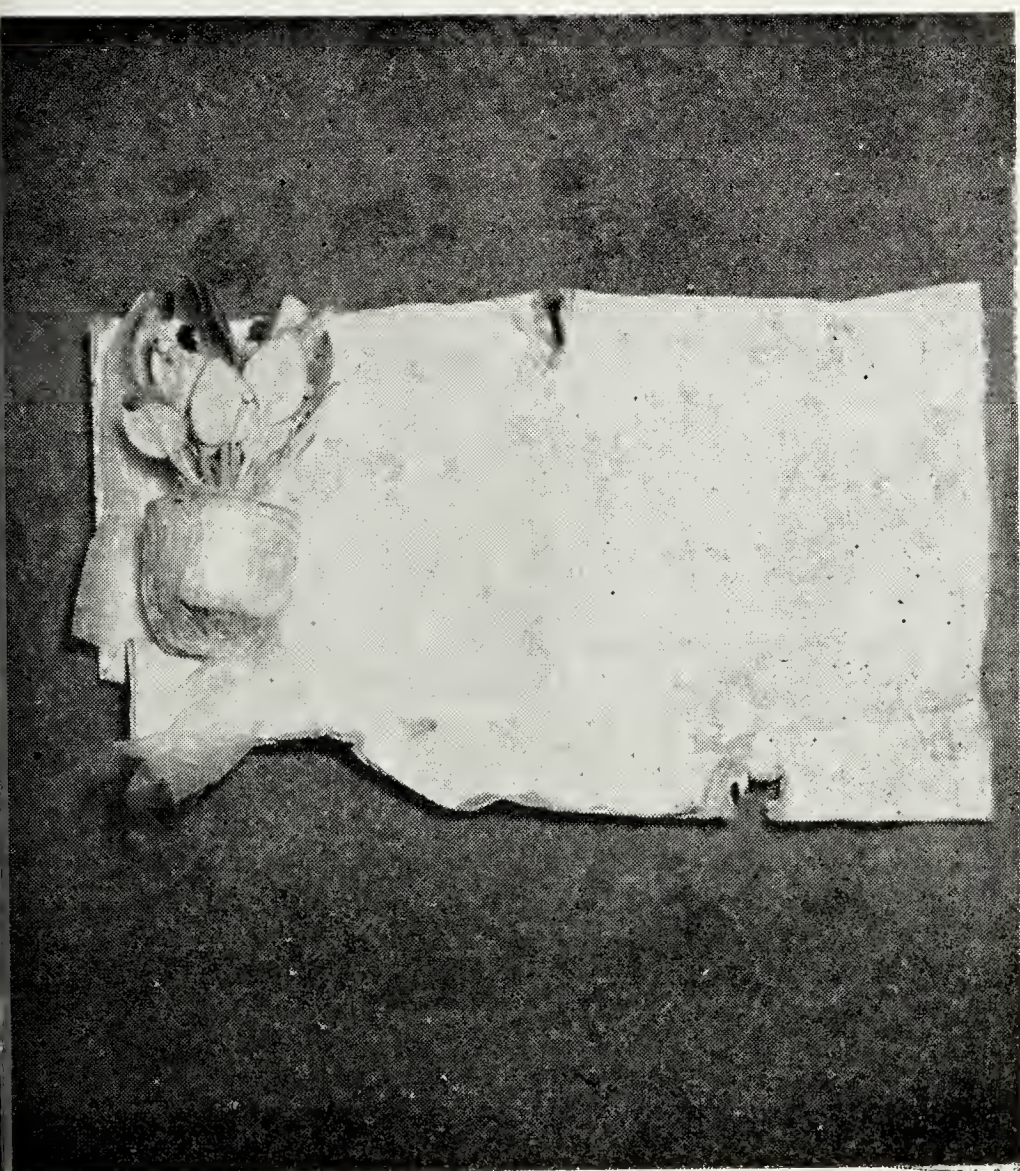
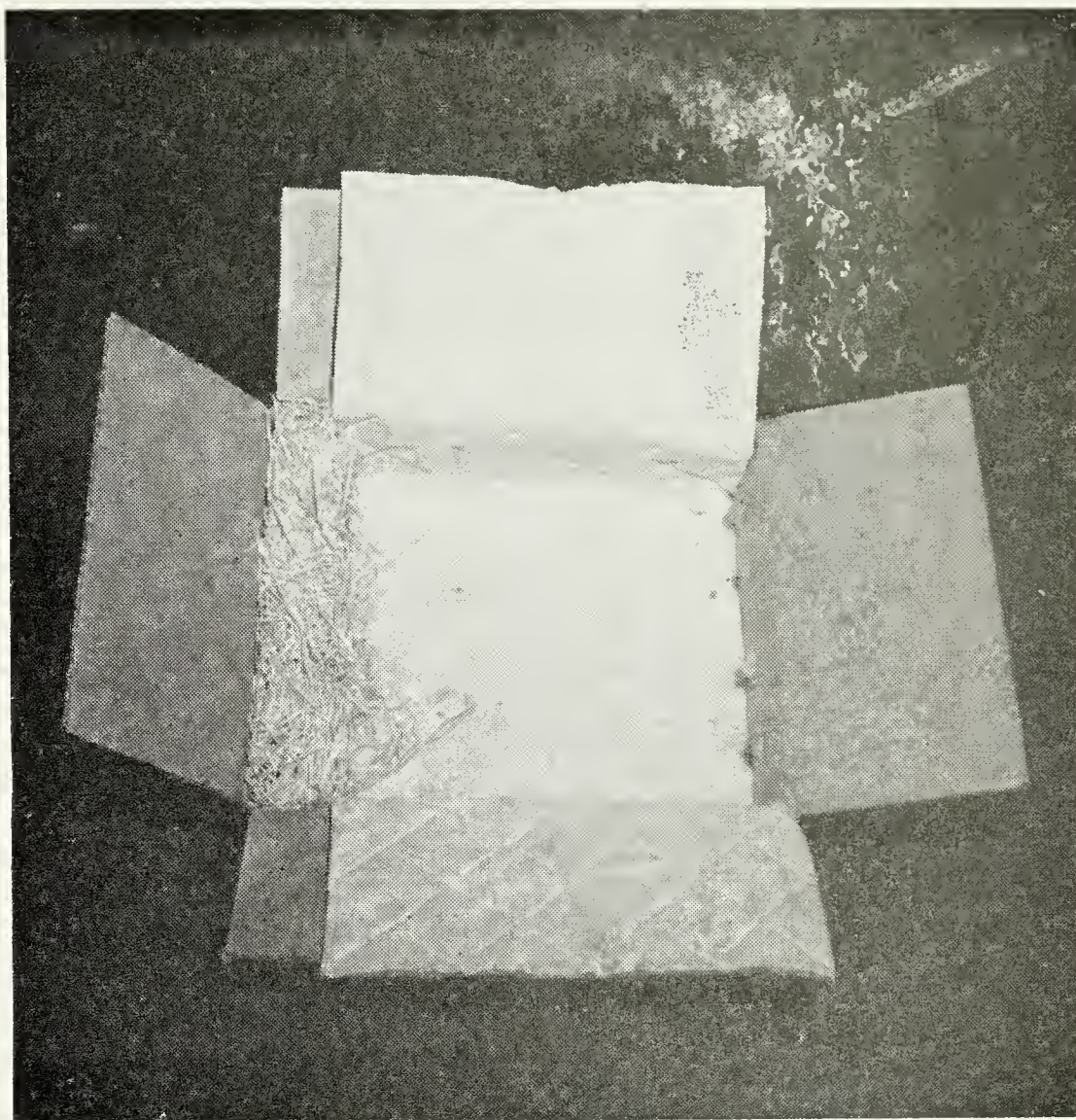
Right — The individual packages are removed and immediately you open the end of the padded wrapping and look inside and see that the plants are fresh and the foliage undamaged. This African violet will not have to struggle to get re-established -- it has not had a hard time -- it was well packed.





The careful way a plant is packaged for mailing has a great deal to do with its condition when it arrives at its destination . . . If it is properly packaged it will not suffer a great deal during its trip and with the possible loss of a few already bloomed out blossoms it should recover from its journey and respond to its new home at once.

Right — The carton is well lined with padded paper with a roll of excelsior to hold the individual packages firmly in place.



Left — The plant is opened. It is growing in a progress pot that is light in weight and is ideal for shipping African violets. Held firmly in place with extra plastic wrapping and scotch tape the plant has come to you in excellent condition. No root damage, no broken leaves.



# *The Easy Way With African Violets*

Irene Pendleton, Kansas City, Mo.

**W**hy make such hard work of raising African violets? They take no more care than a geranium or a coleus and certainly add much more to the home beautification.

Forget all the wild tales you hear, such as: water the plant daily with a teaspoon of water; never pick off the seed pods as it takes strength away from the plant; feed the plant every time water is given, and keep it sitting in a dish of water at all times.

It is not a freak. It does have a few simple requirements but asks no more of you than any other plant. My desire is to simplify the whole process so you may grow and enjoy your violets the easy way.

## **Definition of a Good Plant.**

A good plant is one which first of all appeals to the eye in every way. It must have health above all else. Its foliage must give off a luster that only healthy plants can have. The stems and leaves must be firm and stiff with no sun or water marks.

The plant must be symmetrical, showing it has been turned frequently as it must not lean to one side of the pot. In order to be considered a good plant it must not have a long neck, indicating old age, and of course suckers are tabooed on such a plant. The blossoms should be of good quality, color, size and number according to the variety.

Starting a leaf can be very simple. Put one or many leaves in a tumbler of tap water -- rain water is not necessary. Let the edge of the tumbler support the leaves so they do not fall down into the water too far. Be sure the stem end is held up an inch from the bottom of the tumbler so that the roots may have a chance to grow downward when they appear.

There is no need of wasting time to cover the tumbler with a cardboard, then punching holes in it to support the leaves. It is better to use the time to stick a gummed label on the tumbler to mark the names of the varieties therein. This is important.

## **The Nursery Stage.**

When the roots are an inch long and before the little plants have formed on the ends of the stems set them out in pots or containers of vermiculite. After the little plants appear they should be fed occasionally with a well balanced food as there is no food value at all in vermiculite. However, it is amazing to see how well they thrive without food.

Now don't get itchy fingers and take them out too soon. Leave them with the mother leaf until they are about two inches tall, then pull them off and line each little plant out into another pan of vermiculite. If all the little plants on the parent leaf are not large enough to line out in the pan, leave them where they are to develop until they are the proper size to move.

For lining out the little plants I use enameled pans, 14 inches long, 10 inches wide and 2 inches deep. They are easy to purchase. The pans hold as many as twelve to eighteen plants, according to the size of the plants. I leave them in the pans of vermiculite until they are unbelievably large before I pot them in soil. While I have not only conserved space and saved time in caring for them, they have grown a tremendous root system which is so very important in growing good plants. This is by far the easiest way I have found to raise small plants from leaves.

One may do away with the water process in rooting leaves if they prefer and immediately insert the leaves in vermiculite, but again it takes up more space while you wait for them to root. It does not give you an opportunity to watch the root system and discard those leaves which show signs of never developing little plants.

## **Light Is Needed.**

Whether or not you have fluorescent lights, you can grow beautiful violets, but probably not so many because window light is often at a premium. The main point is, to see to it that they get light and plenty of it; even sunlight, as long as it is not hot. By placing your hand over the plant you will be able to judge whether or not the sun is hot, or only warm.

In using fluorescent lights one may be assured of constant light. They may be used in the basement or maybe combined with daylight. They are usually run from ten to fourteen hours daily.

Most varieties do well in the basement except those inclined to form a tight rosette normally. Then they bunch even more as they reach toward the light. If they are grown where daylight may reach them from all sides it eliminates this trouble.

It is very difficult to make a set rule as to the proper distance fluorescent lights should be placed above the plants on the tables. The foliage of some varieties will withstand a stronger light than others. If the leaves burn around the edges, turn light in color, and the plants grow very flat or do not grow at all, the lights are probably too strong. If the plants grow tall and willowy and have no blossoms it would indicate there is not



enough light for them. I use lights as low as 14 inches from the table tops and as high as 24 inches. One must experiment to know what is best for their plants.

### Rules on Watering.

The old question of watering comes up again. Let's do it the easy way and water the violets like any other plant. When they need water give it to them and that is when the top soil is dry. No plant likes to be shocked with cold water so always use warm water. A combination of top and bottom watering occasionally is beneficial as top watering washes the soil minerals back down into the soil while bottom watering draws the roots down through the soil to the moisture at the bottom, developing better roots.

One does not repot a plant unless there is a reason for it. Sometimes a plant may look entirely too large and out of proportion for the pot it is in, then it could be shifted to a larger one. Or it may have stopped growing, even the outer leaves may turn yellow but remain firm. These could be signs of being root-bound, thus indicating the use of a larger pot or it may be caused by lack of enough food.

### Cracking Old Pots.

In repotting do not tip the plant on end and shake it out of the pot. Horrors! What a mess with soil covering each hairy leaf that holds the soil like fly paper. Instead hold the pot in one hand raising the index finger high enough to support the leaf stems at the back and with the other hand give the pot a real sharp whack with a hammer.

If that does not crack it on the back side too at the same time, turn the pot around and give it another whack -- supporting the leaves again with the index finger. You then have the pot broken on both sides and you may lift the plant out intact, without disturbing it in any way. It is ready to drop into a larger pot that previously should have been prepared first with a small amount of sphagnum moss over the hole in the bottom to keep the soil from sifting through, then a little soil on top of that. The hardest part of all is working the soil around the plant after it has been dropped into the pot, especially if the leaves are large and the stems are close together. I have found using a spoon to sift rather dry soil in around the stems the easiest way. A plant thus repotted never wilts nor does it receive a setback in any way.

### Away With Suckers

Just before a young plant blooms for the first time it usually sends out suckers. These are little leaves that appear in the axils of the lower leaves of the plant. In the leaf axils just above these

are to be found the flower buds. Often times leaves appear with them so one must be sure which are buds with possible tiny leaves and which are true suckers. As soon as you can distinguish between the two it is time to go to work on the suckers. Use a long sharp pointed lead pencil to push them off. This is the easy way. With a knife your hand may slip and cut off a leaf. Tweezers are not long enough so forcing your hand in among the leaves may break off one or more.

If the suckers are left on, the plant will not bloom well (if any) until the suckers have truly developed into plants and then it's every fellow for himself, wriggling, turning and twisting to get light enough to bloom, forcing the many leaves at all angles, some upside down, completely ruining the shape of the plant. The same is the case in not dividing or separating the little plants that develop from a rooted cutting (leaf). By all means put only one plant to a pot.

Buds will blight or will not fully develop if a plant is kept in too hot a room or too close to a register. They cannot stand the dry air blowing on them. Even though they come from the hot humid floor of the tropics, they seem to do better for us when they are kept cool because of our dry atmosphere. Lack of humidity may cause the buds to fall. A temperature between 60 to 70 degrees seems ideal for them.

Again soil is not too important as long as it is made light and porous with leaf-mold or peat-moss with some sand added. A soil suitable for ferns would satisfy the most fastidious African violet. What is important though is the sterilization of the soil. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

### Sterilization Process.

The soil should be quite damp before it is placed in a covered container, such as a roaster, so that it may be steamed rather than baked. It must reach 180 degrees and hold that temperature for one-half hour in order to rid the soil of objectionable fungus, nematodes, etc. The thermostat set at 250 degrees for two and one-half hours does it for me. All re-used flower pots should be washed, then sterilized by boiling them in water for twenty minutes. All of this may seem troublesome but in the long run it is the easiest way as it eliminates much spraying and saves many a headache.

Feeding the plants once or twice a month during the blooming season (winter) is good practice. It need not be any particular fertilizer as long as it is well balanced because they are all good.

A plant started in life with a good root system -- not overpotted or over-watered -- good strong light at all times -- fed occasionally -- suckers kept off -- fairly cool room and not pampered to death, stands a good chance of being a thing of beauty and a joy forever.

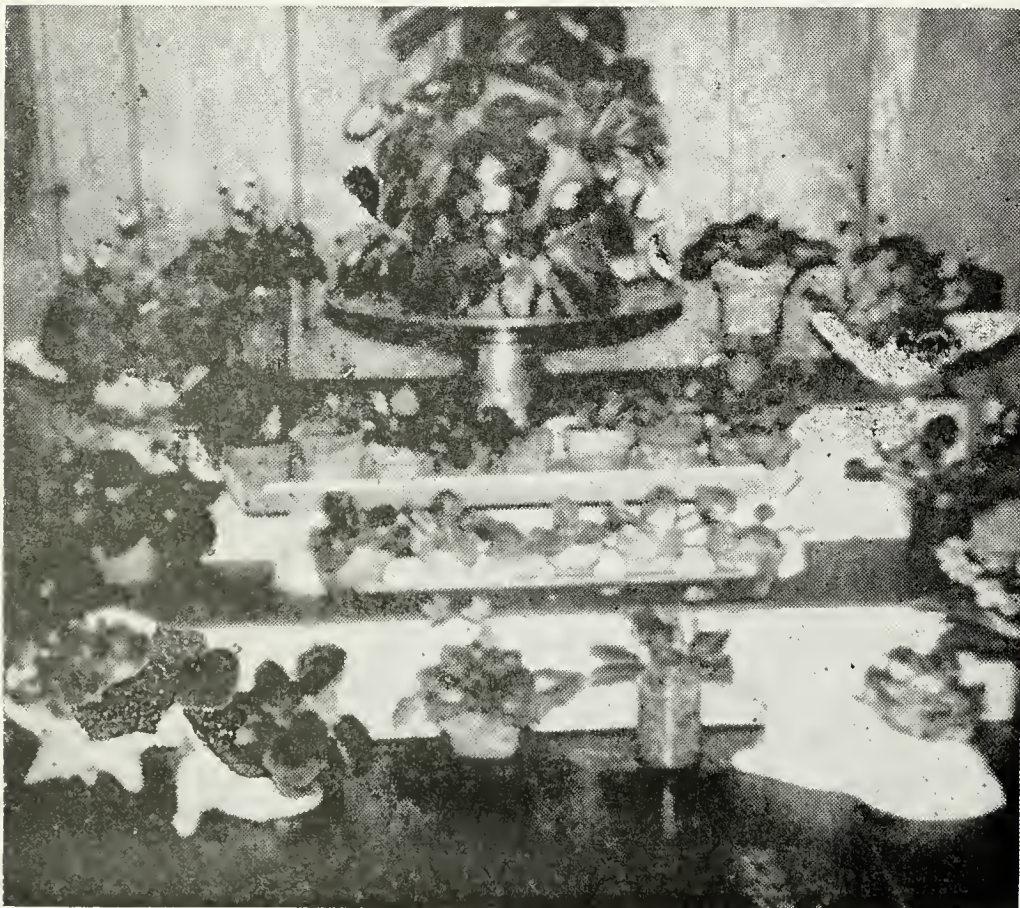


# Hydroponics - Soilless Growing

Erna Petrick, Glenview, Ill.

Several years ago I became interested in Dr. Gericke's invention of the science of growing plants without soil. Those were the days when we could buy coffee in thirty-one pound glass containers, and I used these jars to begin experimenting with tomatoes. I grew nice, sturdy plants, and when they blossomed I sprayed every single flower with a hormone that made them seedless. At harvest time we could eat seedless, soilless tomatoes grown right on our porch. When Fall came I had to move my experimental hobby to the living room. At first my success was not impressive, but patiently trying this or that I succeeded with sand-culture of cacti, Florida and Mexican plants. Then Breck's of Boston offered Mica (vermiculite) for sale for growing cuttings and seeds. Growing from seeds, our garden flowers started to bud. Then one day Frank came

Mrs. Petrick's success with her hydroponic method as shown by the size of plants and quantity of bloom is ample recommendation of this type of culture.



along with his power mower, snip went the flowers, and I became interested in African violets.

Two years ago I began with an Amethyst in a glass brick, using a vermiculite, sand and charcoal mixture with chemical feeding. The plant is still good, has finished blooming, and is budding again.

My propagation is always done with vermiculite and sand or peat moss and sand. Why change to soil if not necessary? They do well under either natural or fluorescent light in any kind of container if you have mastered the watering and feeding technique. Not all plant foods are adaptable for hydroponics. In order that the medium will not become sour I use charcoal, and once in a while I will flush them good to take away the unused chemicals. Too many chemicals will hinder the absorption of water by the plant, and too weak a solution will retard the intake of the nutrients. If you know your plants, you will know at once when something is out of balance. If kept too wet the root will not get the sufficient air necessary for good growth. The center leaves will show discoloration or deformation, and soon crown rot sets in.

The picture shows my strawberry jar planted June 10th with young plants in peat, sand and a little charcoal. The plants were small and have buds if not blooms. The shells have the same mixture. They were old plants with a long stalk, and I cut off the entire root system and re-rooted it; that was done in April, and in the picture you see they are fine show specimens. All glass jars contain a mixture of vermiculite and sand with a little charcoal; the plants are thriving and in bloom, with young plants blooming for the first time.

The first pot on the left of the tray is the only pot with soil as a medium. All others are peat and sand or vermiculite and sand with hydroponic plant food used. I used little baby plants that I thought I might lose. Planting was done August 8th, pictures taken September 30th. The smaller tray shows a variegated white plantlet transplanted three weeks ago into vermiculite, sand and a little charcoal watered with hydroponic chemicals. The plant in the mason jar at the front has grown for two years in vermiculite and sand. It has just finished blooming and is budding again. Soilless planting can be an interest for experienced and unexperienced gardeners alike.





# Calling all MEN

Phil Libby, 1437 Wisconsin Ave., Racine, Wis.

Letters continue to pour in from MEN who are interested and who are raising African violets. We hope that we'll be able to get them all answered.

I made a trip east in February and didn't find as many men on the roster to call on as I thought I might. None in Newark, New Jersey, and only two in Philadelphia, and none in Charleston, West Virginia. While at Philadelphia I had a nice talk with Stanley Nelson, who tells me that when he joined the National Society he was the youngest member in the organization. He is using fluorescent lighting with good effects. He wanted to take me to Tinari's; but time did not allow me to make the trip, as much as I would like to have done so. Maybe the next trip to Philadelphia I'll be able to accomplish that. Mr. William Gimbel, also of Philadelphia, was not at home when I called and his wife told me that he wasn't doing much at present.

I know that the letter from W. H. Nugent will be of interest, so here it is in part: "I am retired after 50 years of practicing dentistry. I have always liked flowers -- anything that blooms -- and my thumb seems fairly 'green.' A few years ago a friend gave me a whipped down violet that looked pretty bad, a Blue-Boy Supreme with three crowns. A current issue of Better Homes and Gardens had a good article on Saint-paulias. I read it and went to work, and, believe it or not, that fall I had three large plants and lots of blooms. During the next two years I raised probably a hundred plants and found myself crowding other things out of my 6' x 15' greenhouse to make room for violets. Texas summers are so hot I had to keep them under the bench on wet sand and depend on south side light. I lost some, gave many away, and then we had a sudden frost that got all not close to the stove. I found mealy bugs on a few, but promptly destroyed them. I banished all but violets from the greenhouse and brought violet health to it. Soilene and NNOR cleaned things up in a short time.

Last winter I found myself with seventeen perfect plants, all alike and blooming. I had never seen a violet collection except in pictures or books on their culture; but I knew I liked them very much and that I had whipped the propagation bugbear pretty well. I decided to expand to twenty varieties.

A Mrs. Connor heard I had some violets, called to inquire about them and invited me to see her collection. She has proved a fairy god-mother to me -- although about half my age. She had some thirty plants, half of them gorgeous with blooms. I left loaded with leaves. This was the first of many pleasant visits we have had. We have expanded to over a hundred varieties, she by plants and leaves, I mostly by leaves and helpful friends.

I was given three used fluorescent light fixtures and bought four more, which were installed in my basement by a neighbor. He brought me enough waste lumber from his trailer factory to make a paling fence all around the perimeter, which I painted. I also whitewashed the walls. The violets thrived amazingly.

I got to know two growers here whose places were air-cooled and had controlled humidity. Both said my plants were the healthiest during the record hot, dry, long summer. I did not lose one plant.

I found a small white rocking chair and as I sit in it and look down the aisle I see three hundred beautiful violets, some in bloom, some in bud, all sizes and varieties, including Pink Cheer. "Shouldn't I feel like a Cinderella?"

"Yes Dr. Nugent, many of us feel that same satisfaction. When I'm down Fort Worth, Texas way, I'll be sure to stop in."

C. D. Oppen, 4330 Auburn Road, Salem, Oregon wants to exchange leaves. While on this subject, let me quote from another letter I received: "I am a 15-year-old boy who enjoys growing violets. I just became a member of the African Violet Society. I have been ill for 2 years and out of school, so the doctor said I should have a hobby, and I chose African violets. I do not have many varieties, but would like to get some new leaves and write to someone about violets. Please try to find someone for me to write to." This letter was from James Schendel, 3711 North Sheridan Road, Minneapolis 12, Minnesota. How about it fellows let's give this lad a hand.

You fellows in the Chicago area, have you ever been down to Garry's at Bensenville, Illinois? Garry is V. president of Twilite Violet Society in Chicago, and also has a small greenhouse out on

Cont. on Page 66





## QUESTION BOX



LOIS MINEHAN

29 Circuit Drive

Binghamton, N. Y.

Q: Will you please tell me where I can get free literature on how to breed earth worms in my cellar?

Mrs. Earl C. Duncan, St. Anne, Ill.

A: Write to your State Agriculture College and also the U. S. Government Printing Office, Division of Public Documents, Washington 25, D. C.

Q: I am a new member of the African Violet Society, and I "struggle" with violets for pleasure, with little reward. I would like to tell you a little about my plants, hoping that you will be able to suggest something that will make them blossom. I have one plant that I have had for two years and it has never blossomed in all of that time. Another plant, I bought at the Flower Show and when the blossoms on it at the time of purchase faded, it never had any more; that was a year ago. I raised one plant from a leaf and it has never blossomed. I am beginning to think that I am a jinx to African violets. Let me describe what I do and then perhaps you can give me some advice. The plants are in an east window and I water them about every other day, determining the need for water by the weight of the pots. Generally, they are a bit on the dry side. Previously, I have given them plant food 13-26-13 proportion. They are all potted in three inch pots in soil prepared especially for African violets and purchased at a reputable florists. Three of my plants which were previously in a north window have long leaf stems and deep green foliage. The others have shorter leaf stems, but the foliage is excellent. In the kitchen, I often let the hot water run so that it may steam the room. I do have a gas stove but have had it checked for gas leakage. I water the plants from the saucer and sometimes with a long spouted pot, on the top, and generally with warm or hot water. I have given some of my plants to a friend who lives in the country and within a short time, they blossom. Now, what do I do to the plants that prevents them from blossoming? I am beginning to think that it is not so easy as people say, to make African violets blossom. When I see the beautiful pictures in the African Violet Magazine, I become thoroughly discouraged.

Dorothy Stewart, Boston, Mass.

A: I would suggest that you use smaller pots as most growers seem to feel that the plants

grow and blossom better when pot bound. Will some of our members kindly make suggestions on this no blossom problem?

Q: Last May I received as a gift an Azure Beauty. It was in bloom -- large white blossoms with lavender flecks. Since that date I have had very large deep purple and at times light lavender blossoms which are very unusual in shape -- resemble a butterfly, not really double but very beautiful. My plant is full of bloom all the time and the foliage is heavy and nice shape. What have I? Will new plants from leaves be the same as parent plant?

Mrs. Albert Oehlers, Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

A: As I mentioned to Mrs. Austin in the last magazine, these little Hybrids do some very strange things and are a surprise to all of us—

Q: I am only an amateur at growing African violets although so far have had success. I had a plant which I started. Suddenly I noticed the leaves went limp and it stood still. I set it by itself to watch what happened. The leaves did not die or change in any way. There was no new growth. I took it out and found the roots to be brown and dead looking. What could be wrong? The leaves were still full of life. Some of my young plants rot after I transplant them. Why?

Mrs. Elgin Core, Brampton, Ont. Canada

A: It would seem that you have root rot on the large plant. As long as the plant seems healthy in other respects why not cut off the dead or brown roots and try to re-root it in water? The reason that your young plants rot after you transplant them could be that too much water is given at one time. A small amount of water more often seems to work better with the young babies.

Q: How do you propagate the S. grotei African violet?

Mrs. Walter Scholtes, Clinton, Iowa

A: Just like any other variety. Water, sand and peat moss, Vermiculite or regular potting soil.

Q: About six weeks ago one of my large plants that had beautiful flowers on it began to have wilted flowers and flower stems. When I looked

Cont. on Page 75







# SOME LOVELY



11. - Blue Beau  
21. - Alma Wright  
31. - Silver Lining

32. - Snow Line  
61. - Eclipse  
72. - Starglow

1. - Giant Rose  
41. - Blue Butte  
51. - Christmas



# FISCHER VIOLETS



71. - Blue Reflection  
73. - Sundream


**FREE CATALOGUE  
ON REQUEST**  
**Fischer . Flowers**  
 DEPT. V. M. LINWOOD, NEW JERSEY









## *FERALON - Plant Food*

Oswego -- Feralon, a scientific plant food and organic soil conditioner, the first combination of its kind, will be introduced on the market this month, through a national advertising campaign and a nation-wide distribution set-up. The new plant food is a product of the Oswego Soy Products Corporation of Oswego, New York.

Feralon is being packaged for two distinct markets: in three ounce squeeze bottles for African violets and all other house plants; and in 4 lb. Sifter Paks for outdoor lawns and gardens. It is also sold in 5 lb. -- 10 lb. -- 25 lb. and 50 lb. bags.

Feralon has been developed by the chemical research department of the Oswego Soy Products Corporation. Soy bean meal, which has been used for years by the country's leading tobacco growers in producing choice shade-grown tobacco, forms the base for the new product. As used in Feralon, the soy bean meal is especially processed and is high in protein.

In addition to the major plant food elements to make Feralon a 6-10-4 formula, the new product contains the essential trace elements in the new form of FTE, available to plants in all soils. Vitamin B<sup>1</sup> and antibiotic have been used. Feralon contains no harmful elements, is completely safe, and will not burn.

One of the novel features of Feralon is its method of application. In use on house plants, holes are poked in the soil with a pencil. The holes are filled by holding the nozzle of the squeeze bottle so Feralon can be injected by simply squeezing the bottle. The holes are then covered with dirt.

In use on outdoor plants, shrubs, lawns and golf greens, Feralon is sold in a large Sifter-Pak, a tube 34 inches long and 2½" in diameter. There is an adjustable opening at the bottom of this tube and the user simply shakes the Sifter-Pak and distributes the Feralon in the quantity required, without the necessity of bending over. On plants and shrubs a rod can be used to poke a hole in the ground and the hole can be filled from a special opening for this purpose in the Sifter-Pak.

Both methods of using a fertilizer are completely new on the market.

Feralon is being advertised in the next issue of *Better Homes and Gardens*, *The Flower Grower*, *Popular Gardening* and several other inter-nationally circulated magazines and newspapers. It will be placed on sale in chain stores, florists shops, garden stores and nurseries, both in the United States and Canada. It is also planned to sell Feralon in hardware, drug and other stores.

The company is also set up to handle a mail order business for customers who live in sections of the country where distribution points have not been established.

A program of radio and television advertising is planned and a large amount of money will be spent in newspaper advertising throughout the entire United States and Canada.

The new plant food is the first of a number of other products being developed by the Oswego Company. The company recently applied for a patent on a completely new process for the extraction of chlorophyll.



# JUDGING SCHOOL POINTS AND PROBLEMS

Ruth G. Carey, Fountain City, Tenn.

Since the Society held its first judging school in Dayton, Ohio, April, 1951 many points have been clarified and many, many problems have arisen. In this article I shall endeavor to help answer some of your problems and stress some points that have been overlooked.

Judgings schools have stimulated wide spread interest and enthusiasm in achieving cultural perfection in our African violets; quality in place of quantity. Many have set show plants as their goal instead of striving for a variety collection of just anything and everything. All of us realize there are great numbers of varieties on the market today not worthy to consider growing.

With our scale of points as a measuring stick or guide, now we know what the judge will look for in judging shows. In promoting judging schools, we train all our members to work together to have successful shows, they learn about the duties of the various chairmen necessary for a show, they learn to write schedules that are specific and easily understood. As to staging a show, that offers a challenge and also an inspiration. What is more satisfying than to view an African violet show so beautifully staged it is breath taking? To understand show procedure means you are a valuable asset to your club at show time, and with this knowledge acquired, then comes the desire to know how to judge African violet shows. If you never serve as a judge you are familiar with the qualifications, learn to recognize all the varieties. You will be able to put these varieties into their proper color classes, and learn the good points to look for in seedlings. It will be surprising how soon your interest will increase to the degree you will be searching for more knowledge. Who doesn't enjoy the feeling of accomplishing something worthwhile?

Once you are a qualified judge you should be able to see both sides of any situation, becoming more tolerant, impartial and fair in all decisions.

To obtain a certificate is only the first step in becoming a qualified judge. Unless you are quite familiar with numerous varieties and keep up to date on new varieties, a concentrated study should be made. Experience is a dear teacher.

Since the policies of judging schools are still in the process of being established due to the rapid and amazing progress the Society has made, judges are not experienced and qualified to the extent that they can command or expect a fee for judging shows. In view of this fact the Society does not permit judges asking other than travel expenses, hotel and meals. Should this policy be ignored the Society will reserve the right of re-

moving the names of such members from the judges' register.

The question has repeatedly been asked if it is possible to take judging school courses by correspondence. The Society does not qualify judges in this manner.

When a group decides to sponsor a judging school, the application must be sent to the judging school chairman of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. by the local chairman of the group desiring the school at least two (2) weeks before the date of the school and not by the teacher.

Always allow sufficient time for the application to go through the necessary procedures. Any teacher holding a school before the proper approval is granted will subject the students to having their certificates withheld.

Never schedule a school and examination on the same day. The students should always have time for study. When groups write the judging school chairman for information as to judges and teachers located in their section, if the location of their city is given it would help in finding someone near. (Example Chicago area or Detroit area or etc.)

Teachers must submit to the National Chairman for approval the exact (mimeographed) questions in the order in which they will be given to the students. Also the name of the group desiring the school and the name of the chairman in charge. Hand written questions for the students examination will not be approved. Teachers are not required to hold the examination but if they desire to do so, it is allowed. Teachers must check African Violet Society of America membership cards of every student taking courses and examination of each school she holds, to ascertain if they are members in good standing.

There are many requests for information on judges, therefore it is very necessary for the teachers to send to the chairman complete names and addresses of every student, as well as grades of everyone, even though a passing grade is not made. Judges changing their addresses should promptly notify the National Chairman.

If teachers and those desiring judging school information will carefully read the rules and regulations on page 94 in the 1952-1953 Members' Handbook, much time will be saved in applications being approved.



# QUALIFIED JUDGES

## Ruth G. Carey, Chairman

Judging School Certificates issued at High Point, North Carolina November 6, 1952. Expire November 6, 1955.

Mrs. Claude Robinson, 404 Edgewood Ct.  
Lancaster  
Mrs. Brona Hackney, 230 Woodrow Ave.  
High Point  
Mrs. B. W. Davis, Dinny Dr., High Point  
Mrs. L. P. Morrison, 224 Edgedale, W. High Point  
Miss Evelyn Gallant, 504 Lindsay St., High Point  
Miss Lois Hunter, 211 E. Green, High Point

Judging School Certificates issued at Oak Ridge, Tennessee February 24, 1953. Expire February 24, 1956.

Mrs. Wallace Davis, Jr., 601 Florida Ave.  
Mrs. Lester P. Smith, 242 Outer Dr.  
Mrs. St. John W. Davis, 103 Orchard Lane.  
Mrs. James B. Scott, 105 Pomona Rd.  
Mrs. R. K. Browning, 119 Tucker Rd.  
Mrs. W. E. Zarnikow, 230 N. Purdue  
Mrs. A. B. Bowman, 645 Penn Ave.

Judging School Certificates issued at Saint Joseph, Missouri February 24, 1953. Expire February 24, 1956.

Mrs. F. M. Richardson, 2710 Olive St., St. Joseph  
Mrs. Benton Garner, 923 S. 28th, St. Joseph  
Mrs. Milton Bumbacker, 1903 Huntoon Rd.  
St. Joseph  
Mrs. W. E. Byous, 817 Garden, St. Joseph  
Mrs. Harry Hayes, Karnes Rd., St. Joseph  
Mrs. Callis I. Roundy, Rt. 2, St. Joseph  
Mrs. Hal Pollock, Galt  
Mrs. Helen McNeeley, Trenton  
Mrs. Glenn Bradley, Maryville  
Mrs. George Swingle, 3150 S. 31st St.  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Judging School Certificates issued at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania February 24, 1953. Expire February 24, 1956.

Mrs. D. E. Cubbage, 403 McElheny Rd., Glenshaw  
Mrs. W. B. Renshaw, 821 Larimer Ave.  
E. McKeesport  
Mrs. Oliver C. Diehl, Rt. 3, Box 79, Gibsonia  
Mrs. Louis F. Hundertmark, 116 Brown St.  
Pittsburgh 23  
Mrs. J. C. Mack, 2125 Pioneer Ave., Pittsburgh 26  
Mrs. L. Ross Harness, 555 Westover Rd.  
Pittsburgh 34  
Mrs. Rene Edmundson, 417 Arlington  
E. McKeesport  
Mrs. Stella Dietz, 208 E. Littlewood St.  
Pittsburgh 23

Mrs. J. R. Arnold, 1666 Arbor Dr., Pittsburgh 20  
Mrs. P. M. Lowry, P. O. Box 9832, Pittsburgh 27  
Mrs. Mary Beavers, 209 Beaver Dr., Pittsburgh 21  
Mrs. Edwin F. Wanner, Box 141, Rt. 3  
Pittsburgh 2  
Mrs. Allen l Haslette, 426 Fairway Dr.  
Pittsburgh 27  
Mrs. W. C. Douglas, 1332 Singer Pl.  
Pittsburgh 21  
Mrs. Thomas B. Packer, 4204 Murray Ave.  
Pittsburgh 17  
Mrs. Agnes Dougherty, 115 S. Lexington Ave.  
Pittsburgh 8  
Cleophas Rowe, Box 139, Rt. 3, Pittsburg 16  
Mrs. Howard A. DeLong, 535 Overlook Dr.  
Pittsburgh 16  
Mrs. James Affleck, Old Mill Rd., Pittsburgh 15  
Mrs. Chas. F. Forrestall, 399 McClellan Dr.  
Pittsburgh 27  
Mrs. J. A. Finney, 128 Mason Dr., Glenshaw  
Mrs. John Reiter, Rt. 1, Box 540, Turtle Creek  
Mrs. R. A. Booth, 1607 Laketon Rd., Wilkinsburg  
Mrs. Buford E. Hiles, Rt. 2, Woodland Rd.  
Allison Park  
Mrs. Grace F. Eyerdorn, Rt. 1, Wadsworth, Ohio  
Mrs. Mary Meeds, 2023 Belmont  
Youngstown, Ohio

Judging School Certificates issued at Norfolk, Virginia March 5, 1953. Expire March 5, 1956

Mrs. P. H. Fletcher, 5604 Granby St., Norfolk  
Mrs. P. H. Dixon, 1408 Mallory Ct., Norfolk  
Mrs. Robert C. Larmore, 5604 Granby St., Norfolk  
Helen Morgan, 4312 Krick St., Norfolk  
Mrs. W. E. Hoffman, 1489 Emory Pl., Norfolk  
Mrs. Herman Beane, 1525 W. Ocean View Ave.  
Norfolk  
Mrs. R. W. Schoolcraft, 1532 Holland Ave.  
Norfolk  
Mrs. A. J. Ketsules, 209 18th St., Virginia Beach  
Mrs. Lawrence Lockwood, Cavalier Park  
Virginia Beach  
Mrs. Harry Ames, Ave. C., Virginia Beach  
Mrs. Mae Asteres, 207 19th St., Virginia Beach

Judging School Certificates issued at Little Rock, Arkansas March 23, 1953. Expire March 23, 1956.

Mrs. John Hackett, 4512 Club Rd., Little Rock  
Mrs. Chas. E. Hallman, 290 Goshen Ave.  
N. Little Rock  
Mrs. M. M. Hitchcock, 304 Thayer Ave.  
Little Rock  
Mrs. S. R. Jackman, 516 Beech St., Little Rock  
Mrs. E. V. Moore, 4920 Lee Ave., Little Rock  
Mrs. Zelma S. Pierce, 330 Central Ave.  
Little Rock  
Mrs. H. C. Thompson, Rt. 1, Box 364, Little Rock  
Mrs. James H. Wasson, 120 Louise St.  
N. Little Rock  
Mrs. G. C. Hartenbower, 217 W. Emma Ave.  
Springdale



# TWENTY QUESTION GAME

Ray G. Miller, Chicago, Ill.

Here is a form of "Twenty Questions Game" as originated by Ray G. Miller. As it was very successful and enjoyed by all at our January meeting. I believe that it has merit for use in club programs. The game consumed one hours time. As you will note the category is restricted to only those names, things, etc. familiar to an African Violet Enthusiast. As played by our club, 'The Twilight Chapter of the African Violet Society at Chicago' with 27 members present, the questions were not limited to 20. We finished with four members tied with three correct guesses each. The last question was restricted to these four and the winner was awarded a plant as a prize.

NAME, THING ETC. WE ARE AFTER	CLUE
Bicolor	Together they look good.
Light	Something you use every day.
Phosphorus	Produces many flowers.
Pot	This will hold your interest.
Pink Beauty	A baby girl.
Potash or Potassium	For health and disease resistance.
Personal ideas on how to grow.	Each violet enthusiast has at least one of these.
Amethyst	Most popular in February.
African	Of darkest hue.
Earth	A creation. (God created Heaven and earth).
Blue Eyes	Monday vision.
Sailor Girl	Common in coastal cities.
Temperature and humidity	As closely related as man and wife. One usually influences the other.
Leaves	At the end of each meeting.
Nitrogen	Grows the fastest.
Fertilizer	Like good reliable stocks and bonds. (Pays dividends).
Mineral Salts	Found on land and sea.
Monthly meetings	If you start you should not stop.
Flowers	Popular now and sure to come out on top.
Admiral	Has been in SERVICE a long time.
Crown Rot	A spoiled sovereign.
Gorgeous	Marilyn Monroe.
Varieties	These grow faster than the others.
Water	This was heaven sent.
African Violet Magazine	More read (RED) than all.
Fluorescent (Light) and Florescent (Flowering)	Two words, similar in sound, having different meanings. One is a great help to the other.
Alma Wright (Right)	Has never been proven wrong.
The Annual Convention	Many try but few succeed.
Window	There are always more than one of these in each violet growers home.
Helen - Van Pelt - Wilson	I have three names.
Green Thumb	Proven to be a fallacy.
Violet	This one has received special honor in the following states. (The violet is the state flower in Illinois, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Wisconsin).





Mrs. Hall

About six years ago I discovered there were several colors in African violets. I had known only the Blue Boy, White Lady and Pink Beauty. It was then that I first became interested in the African violet.

I began reading all material I could find pertaining to the plant. I then learned of the National Society and its magazine. My daughter gave me my first subscription as a Christmas gift. I was so thrilled with the first copy that I immediately sent for all back issues. I now have all except the first copy. I started a scrap book.

When I saw violets in the window I often times called on the owner and we would start exchanging leaves. I sent East for new varieties.

### FLOWER HAVEN

African violets — latest varieties  
Episcias, Large Begonias, Buell Gloxinias  
Many other unusual plants  
Shipping — Home Sales  
STAMP FOR LIST

**MRS. IRVAN LACHER**

RT. No. 4

FREEDPORT, ILLINOIS

## A DREAM -

## COME TRUE

Evelyn Hall, Calif.

One day I ran an ad in the paper saying I had twenty-eight varieties and would like to exchange. I had many calls, some coming as late as a year after my ad appeared. Few had violets to exchange but they had other plants, would I care to exchange for something else? I now have a lovely geranium collection and many friends because of the ad. I was surprised to find so many people who were truly interested in the African violet.

Some pictures in the paper brought many more calls, and letters. Many people, often strangers came to see my violets. My husband used to say that all anyone had to say, when they reached my porch was African violets and they were in the house.

Knowing there were a lot of people as interested as myself, several of us decided it would be nice if we could have a club or society. We held the first meeting in my home, then in a couple of other homes before we were able to organize. Out of courtesy I was made the first president.

Our group of officers stayed in office fifteen months as we wanted to have our first show. I consider the show one of my dreams come true.

At the end of our term we had one hundred thirty-two members, all with the exception of ten belonging to the National Society. Several of the ten are now National members.

This spring our second show was given April 11th and 12th at the Turn Verein located at 3349 J. Street, Sacramento . . . and was a most pleasurable event.

HEATHER — My own plant -- Rosy Violet blossoms borne in profusion on attractive dark girl foliage. Registration applied for . . . . \$2.00 each, Postpaid  
BRONZE CHERUB — My introduction -- Orchid bowknot type blossoms on round, shiny, bronze girl type foliage, semi-miniature growth \$2.00 each Ppd.

**ESTHER S. SCHAFER**

Box 576

Tecumseh, Nebraska





## WHAT OTHERS DO

Lucy A. Lewis, Powinal, Vt.

My first experience with African violets was the same as many others. At first it seemed hopeless, and my well-meaning family advised me to give up the idea as a waste of time and energy. Being an ex-school marm with a mind of my own, I promptly decided to show them. And

from a very simple beginning with three sturdy plants, which I have since called my "old reliables," "Blue Boy," "White Lady" and "Pink Beauty," I have since done just that. I weeded out my other house plants and devoted my time and thought to my violets, and through much trial and error, I can now be very proud of my collection.

My house plants have spread all over my house, but of course I still prefer the north and east exposures. And I use all kinds of pots, watering methods, etc. Many of my best pots are home made from dime store jars with a hole cut in the bottom for a glass wick, fed from a tuna can enameled black. So you see, anything goes.

But ever since my plants began really blossoming forth I have been trying to get up enough nerve to try them outside, just for a few weeks of gentle Vermont showers. At last this year I became brave enough to try a number of single crown plants under a partly sheltered barberry hedge on the north side, and now my violets happily peep out for all to behold. I have really become the envy of those same people who said it couldn't be done. I have given away many beautiful plants. However, living on a main highway, my greatest thrill has come when strangers stop and ask to see my plants. First they say, "May we see your plants?" Then it's "May we buy one or two?" So I have sold a great many without any other advertisement than the plants themselves, smiling gaily from my sun porch windows and my yard. This alone has given me many new friends, people I would never otherwise have met.

This year I joined the Society, and now I can say to all temporarily disillusioned members, "It can be done -- with just a little more effort than ordinary house plants," and for the average busy house wife who enjoys plants blooming all the year 'round, the Saintpaulia will surpass all.

### 1954 NATIONAL SHOW AWARDS

It isn't too early to begin to get plants ready for the National Show in St. Louis in 1954. The following Awards will be given—

The Silver Cup  
Award of Merit Ribbon  
Honorable Mention Ribbon  
Annual Sweepstakes Silver Bowl  
Tinari Floral Gardens Award  
Alma Wright Cash Award  
Boyce M. Edens Award  
George W. Ball Award  
Tube Craft Floral Cart Award

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247 pages, 57 pen drawings, 11 halftones  
Complete instructions on how to make  
Corsages

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Mail check to —

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## COLOR SLIDES

The Society has available to Local Affiliated Chapters of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. 35 mm. color slides for club programs.

Because of the growing popularity of our color slide and recording programs, the following regulations are necessary:

1. Only Affiliated Chapters in good standing are eligible to borrow slides.
2. Reservations shall be made in the name of the Society by the chapter president.
3. Programs must be postmarked on the return due date specified.
4. All written material must be returned.
5. Postage for sending must be cash and enclosed in the registered, returned package.
6. All programs returned to the librarian must be via registered mail, and to the address indicated on the package.
7. Chapters are eligible for only two (2) color slide and two (2) tape recording programs each calendar year.
8. Three (3) months reservation is absolutely necessary, and reservations should be confirmed by the librarian.
9. Only one (1) recording or one (1) film program may be borrowed for a meeting. When two or three programs are requested, only one request will be filled.
10. Special requests will be filled when possible. However, the librarian reserves the right to substitute for scheduled programs when necessary. Please, no telegraphs or telephone calls about substitutions.
11. Failure to return programs promptly, to return written material, cost-for-sending postage or registering package of necessity will incur a penalty -- penalty, the loss of borrowing privileges by the chapter for one year. This is necessary in order that we may meet our schedule of promises to those chapters who comply with the rules.

Please address all requests to:

LIBRARIAN

MRS. R. G. HEINSOHN

4720 Calumet Drive

Knoxville, Tennessee

## COLOR SLIDE CONTEST

The AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE is sponsoring a contest of 35 mm. color slides. Make slides of your favorite arrangement, of your violet window, of your lovely Blue Ribbon winner. Then send them to the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE, Alma Wright, Editor, 4752 Calumet Drive, Knoxville 19, Tennessee.



### HAND PAINTED CARDS

Hand painted cards, sketched from growing flowers by Florence Terry, California artist.

Cards in any color desired

Cost 35¢ each

Quotations on stationery and larger paintings of violets sent on request.

Address:

**FLORENCE TERRY**

1610 LEAVENWORTH STREET

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

The color slide contest will be comprised of three different classes:

Class 1 — For pictures of African violet windows.

Class 2 — For African violet arrangements -- These can be either local show arrangements, or an individual's own idea of a lovely arrangement of her plants.

Class 3 — Blue Ribbon winners in local shows -- individual plants.

The color slides must be 35 mm., with each slide marked as to which class it is being entered.

A First, Second, and Third prize of \$5.00, \$3.00 and \$2.00 respectively will be awarded in all these classes in the Contest. Deadline for the Contest will be December 1, 1953, and all slides must be postmarked on or before that date.

Because of the inherent difficulty of insuring return of the slides, all slides will become the property of the African Violet Society of America and will not be returned.



## THE NICEST THING YET

Cont. from Page 17

Indeed, we stared at each other "with a wild surmise!" Could it be true that this plant had developed in the United States to such a wonderful degree and yet scarcely a word of it had come across the Atlantic to this country? Immediate action was called for, first to obtain as many seeds and leaves of the latest varieties as possible and second to investigate among growers over here to discover whether any progress had been made unknown to us.

Both operations have been carried out to the best of our ability. As to the first, thanks to the Magazine and to my wife's green fingers, we have a collection of varieties in full bloom which give us enormous joy. Secondly, we discovered that two or three people only had collections of the latest sorts.

Many plants of the older *Ionantha* were discovered, some at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, some at the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Wisley and some at other horticultural institutes. I do not wish to malign these excellent institutes, but none seemed to have studied your methods, to have obtained any up to date varieties, or to have learned to grow them properly.

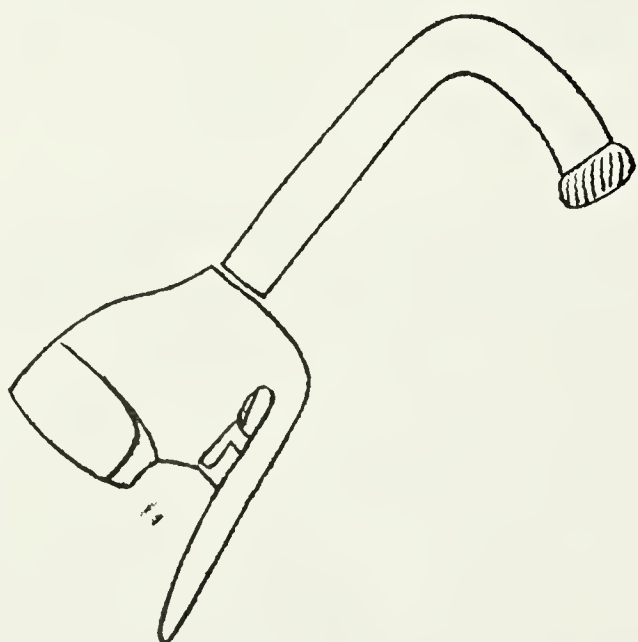
Two growers, Mrs. Geoffrey Bowes-Lyon and Mrs. Joy Hutson, had good collections and a happy interchange of leaves took place.

The next step was to try to expand the interest, and to this end we exhibited our *Saint-paulias* several times last autumn and printed up a small explanatory leaflet giving cultural instructions and a note of varieties. Great interest undoubtedly has been aroused. Many people have bought leaves and we have distributed a great number of leaflets, as have Mrs. Bowes-Lyon and Mrs. Hutson. Several nurserymen are taking up propagation and sale and I hope we shall find that when the next edition of your Member's Handbook is published there will be many more British members than those listed in 1952.

Now, as to the future, we must try to form an Affiliated Society over here and to run a combined exhibition, and, of course, we are greatly hoping that some time one of your experts will come over to this country with, perhaps, lantern slides and photographs, and offer to give us a lecture, telling us all about your experiences with African violets in the United States.

I do not anticipate that we shall find it so easy to expand as quickly as you have. People are conservative and we do not keep our homes so warm, but the number of enthusiasts is growing daily. Articles and letters are appearing in the gardening papers and we have great hopes that before long many will be sharing with us our joy in growing the African violet.

\*British Army expression meaning the less said about methods the better!



### HANDY GADGET

Just had to tell you about this handy gadget, it's saved us so much time and trouble. You can turn water off and on at a touch with one hand, leaving the other free to work with, or to hang on with if you have to climb to water some of your plants, and who doesn't if they raise African Violets? Really it is the valve of a thousand uses. Want one? Write today for prices and further information. We will also tell you about Lyke's Jumbo Pink African Violet. Do come and see us, won't you?

*Lyke's* AFRICAN VIOLETS

EAST BETHANY, NEW YORK





## QUICK GROWING

Rose Pifer, Kenilworth, Illinois

I have kept records of my varied growing experiments with African violets. On October 10, 1952 I planted the large leaf of Azure Beauty which you see in the background of the picture, in a small pot of well-mixed peat moss, vermiculite, and compost, and placed it on one of the shelves in the west window of my kitchen. Besides giving the pot the usual watering, I moistened it well every fifteen days with a solution of Miracle-Gro fertilizer, a tablespoonful to a gallon of water.

In less than a month leaves began to come out of the soil and by January 26, 1953 there was one large double flower, three months and sixteen days from the leaf planting, a bloom which lasted almost three weeks. I am sure the steam and warmth of my kitchen contributed a great deal toward the quick growth. Now I am watching the pot each day anxious to see when the next flower stalk will appear.

## SUPPLIES for AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING

### PLASTIC LABELS

Miller's GREENPLAST 110 for \$1.00

### INSECTICIDES

NNOR 6-oz. \$1.25  
Sodium Selenate 12 caps \$1.00  
Lindane 1-lb. \$1.10  
Kapsulate, Optox, Optox Special, Soilene, Marvel Spray, Detex, and others.

### FUNGICIDES

Fermate, Arasan, Anti-Damp, Others.

### FERTILIZERS

Hyponex, Electra, NuPhosk, Plant Marvel. Others.

### FOR MIXING POTTING SOIL

Bone Meal, Charcoal, Ground Limestone, Hyper Humus, Gypsum, Leaf Mold, Limestone Chips, Peat Moss, Superphosphate.

### GLASS WICKING

All sizes and lengths.

### OTHER ITEMS

Metal foil, Vitamin B<sup>1</sup>, pots, (clay and plastic), vermiculite, Rootone, plate glass, duPont Garden Products, sprayers, etc.

Write for Catalogue. If you sell African violets ask for Dealer Price List too.

**NEIL C. MILLER**

Layton's Lake, R. D.

PENNS GROVE 6, N. J.

## HOW TO GROW PRIZE-WINNING AFRICAN VIOLETS

Use RAINBOW MINERAL SOIL CONDITIONER -- Tested and approved by "Experts" and leading "Authorities" on AFRICAN VIOLETS. RAINBOW MINERAL contains the basic and trace elements so necessary for healthy blooming plants, 30 minerals in all. Condition your soil and feed your plants in one operation.

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**WALLACE MINERAL CORP.**

170 West Virginia Ave.

Denver, Colorado



## BUDS BUT NO BLOOMS

Cont. from Page 29

different varieties. My friends' plants had beautiful foliage and would quickly bloom. My plants grew beautiful foliage, buds formed, and I waited expectantly. Alas, the buds never opened. They would fall off at different sizes but never reach full bloom.

I received much friendly advice -- the light was hitting the plants from the wrong angle, the dirt was wrong, and so on infinitum. But everything I tried was to no avail. I sprayed regularly with Optox; I fed them about once a month with Hyponex. My family gave me new plants, which

would bloom for a week or two in all their loveliness but never bloom again. Then I began searching literature for someone who had suffered the same experience. By then I was becoming pretty discouraged.

One evening in April when my son and daughter were visiting me we went down to the basement freezer. We were down there only for a minute when my daughter smelled gas. The next day the gas company repaired leaks in the hot water heater, the gas furnace, and even in the gas logs in the fireplace.

Next week I had twelve blossoms. A month later there were blossoms in every room of the house. All the blossoms were beautiful, and I had about three hundred violets in over fifty different varieties. What a sight for discouraged eyes.

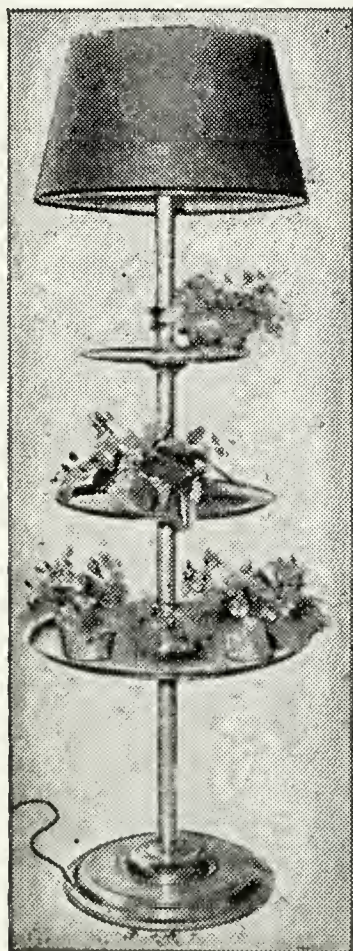
My husband has a compost pile which I use along with dirt, sludge, sand and peat moss, and the violets love it. I start all leaves in large flat cake pans. When the plants are some size I put them in soil in three-inch clay pots. After they are big plants I move them to larger, fancier pots. I have violets in everything that will hold dirt -- even sherbet glasses and after-dinner coffee cups. I water them from both the top and the bottom, and some pots have bottom drainage. I do not sterilize the soil, for both I and my husband (who is a gardener) feel that the soil loses a basic quality through sterilization.

My friends are almost as thrilled as I am with my success. The pictures were made in June, 1952, two months after the gas leaks were repaired. I am so happy with my violets that I want to tell the whole world about my experience.

**SHOW PINK - LEAVES SOLD OUT AT PRESENT. WATCH THIS MAGAZINE FOR MY AD WHEN THEY ARE AGAIN AVAILABLE. MY PRICE LIST ON PAGE 60 OF THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE IS STILL EFFECTIVE, WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITION IN LEAVES ONLY FOR 50¢ EACH.**

Dbl. Lav. Eyed Beauty Blue Ohio  
Fantasy Supreme Pink Attraction  
Snow Prince Supreme Ruby Girl  
Springfield Beauty Violet Geneva  
Ulery's Pink Wonder (plant only) — \$2.75

**HENRY TEN HAGEN**  
DEPT. WE WARSAW, N. Y.



### New FLOOR LAMP FLOWER TREE

For Your Cherished AFRICAN VIOLETS

Each Tray Rotates Freely about center for even sunning of plants

A REAL ORNAMENT IN ANY HOME

Made of lustrous rustproof spun aluminum (except the lamp fittings). Each tray is waterproof and holds up to ½ inch of water. Plants can be watered the ideal way -- from the bottom. No individual watering!

This tree holds up to 17 four-inch African Violet flower pots, yet requires only 20-inch diameter floor space.

The Spunalum Floor Lamp Flower Tree is 60 inches high over all, -- 18 inches from floor to bottom tray; 10 inches between trays. It is fitted to mount any three-wire shade.

Write for free circular on other Flower Trees, Squatty Clay Pots, and Spunalum Plain and Wick-Fed Saucers.

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Without Shade  
**\$30.50**  
With 20" Shade  
**\$33.50**  
Express Paid



# The Beginning of a Chapter

Sophia Filing, Penna.

I had lived in York for several months when I was invited by friends to attend the Passion Play presented at the York Fair Grounds. After we were seated and waiting for the play to begin, I started noticing the people around me, and especially the woman sitting next to me. She was leaning back in her seat, completely relaxed, with the expression of one enjoying the end of a perfect day.

I opened the conversation with the usual, "Nice evening, isn't it?" and the usual exchange of remarks followed. Then this lady said, "I'm just sitting here enjoying quietness. I was out this afternoon at a Garden Club meeting, and they had a display of African violets. Mrs. Haig spoke, and it was wonderful." That was all I needed to hear -- African violets . . . With that we were off to a good start, and with plenty to talk about. Then the lady immediately behind us leaned over our shoulders and said, "Wasn't that

an interesting meeting?" and introduced herself, Mrs. H. Fisher. The conversation became so lively from there on that we could hardly keep quiet long enough to show our reverence during the wonderful performance. We exchanged telephone numbers, and that was the nucleus for our idea for our own chapter of the African Violet Society.

Although I knew no one from York, that chance meeting was my entry into a lovely group of Mrs. Haig's and Mrs. Fisher's friends, and through our common interest in violets we organized our first chapter. Since I had formally been a member of another group, they honored me by asking me to be chairman for six months until a regular election can be held.

I guess I'm a sentimental fool, but I can't help but feel that anything started at such a wonderful source will not only be a great enjoyment, but will also be a help for each of us.



## NEW PLANT STAND

- All steel welded. Especially Nice for African Violets.
- Presented First Time at National African Violet Convention, Hotel Sherman, Chicago.
- Will Not Tip or Tilt!
- Holds 11 plants, 10 on revolving arms.

Attractive and sturdy heavy gauge steel with green or white enamel finish. Easily dismantled for cleaning. Ten revolving arms tapering from 6 to 12 inches, allowing easy positioning of plants. Permits air and sun exposure from top to bottom. Convenient 40-inch height . . . suitable for plants of all kinds.

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City .....State.....



# REGISTRATION REPORT . . .

Neil C. Miller

## PART I

This is written in March, six weeks before the 1953 Convention. At this writing it appears imperative that changes be made in the Registration procedure. Certain changes will be proposed for action by the Board of Directors during the Convention. So any policy announcements made in this Report may be obsolete by the time they are published.

It should be pointed out, however, that the list of Applications for Registration immediately following is just that: a list of applications for registration. These applications are subject to review and consideration by each and every member of the Society, and any member can prevent any plant from going through to permanent registration by filing an objection within the protest period as defined by the Code of Rules for Nomenclature and Registration.

## PLANT AND REGISTRANT

The following applications have been received during the period December 9, 1952 to March 20, 1953.

### Black Fringe 1-17-53

Tinari Floral Gardens  
Valley Road  
Bethayres, Pennsylvania

"Very dark purple-black flower, ruffled and fringed, held high above foliage. Profuse bloomer. Leaf of dark shiny bronze green showing very red beneath, ruffled edge, long and narrow. Long petiole, excellent grower and most attractive."

### Calico

Behnke Nurseries  
Beltsville, Maryland

"Lovely clear pink, strikingly marked with contrasting purple flares, lines, dots, rays. Not just overlaid but purple patterns penetrate in many instances to the back of the flower petals. Some blooms have just one flare, others have lines and dots, and two of these large sized blossoms are alike. Glossy, quilted foliage; flat growing. Dark red undercoat and petioles. Prolific and easy bloomer. Out of our own Spectacular Fantasy strain, it has the same remarkable ever-sporting habit and is even more interesting because of its rich contrasting pink and blue colors."

### Coronation Double White 3-11-53

Mrs. John Buynak  
3871 W. 133rd Street  
Cleveland, Ohio

"Large pure double white flower, bottom petal longer; buds have greenish cast, opening slowly to pure white flowers, measuring 1 1/2" in length. Medium green heart shape leaves. Heavy texture, "Not Amazon," compact floriferous grower. Sport of Azure Beauty."

### Dr. Rainey 3-3-53

Mrs. William S. Elrod  
300 Elrod Circle  
Anderson, South Carolina

"Foliage is of uniform growth and resembles improved Blue Boy the male parent except the leaves are cupped downward, are hairy and have a brighter green color. The stems are the same color as the back of the leaves, giving the plant a uniform color. The leaves are thick so that light does not cause the leaves to look spotted as some thin

leaved types do. The blossoms are a very clear light blue: a true blue with not a trace of purple. The blossoms resemble Blue Eyes the female parent, except they are slightly cupped, and are a great deal larger. The blossoms are held well above the foliage on strong stems, with an average of three large blossoms to a stem. This plant is a good bloomer, at times having had as many as twenty-seven blossoms at one time."

### Frilled duPont 1-13-53

Tinari Floral Gardens  
Valley Road  
Bethayres, Pennsylvania

"This variety greatly resembles the famous duPont type, though it is the first of the duPont seedlings to propagate true with a very large cupped shape frilled edge flower. Color is a true Lavendar Bi-Color with top petals darker. Leaf is very thick and hairy and definitely rounded and quilted red beneath. Grows very symmetrical."

### Fringem -- Sunday Best 2-22-53

Mrs. S. R. Toussaint  
1713 Glenmere Boulevard  
Greeley, Colorado

"A seedling of Ionantha and White Fringette Leaves: curly, shiny, red back, light green veins -- similar to Holly. Flowers light blue with frilly lace edge, top two petals edged white until in full bloom. Five to seven flowers on each stalk."

### Heather 2-25-53

Mrs. William Schafer  
Tecumseh, Nebraska

"This plant is a seedling. Blossoms somewhat resemble Gypsy Rosa in shape but petals are larger and more extreme in shape. Blossom is quite a bit larger than Gypsy Rosa. Stamens stand out quite prominently. Foliage is finely and evenly scalloped. The mature leaf is heart shaped with each leaf having a dip or twist in it. Leaves are bronze green with a rosy suffusion extending from the petiole around the chartreuse base. Very prolific bloomer."

### Iowa 3-13-53

Mrs. Ferne V. Kellar  
1223 East Oak Park Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa

"Iowa -- A sport of "Holly." Leaves heavy and large, dark green, reddish underneath with green veins, wavy and crenated with the main vein in center of leaf creamy green, not a girl foliage. Medium blue flowers on long stems, a free bloomer. This plant gets very large; it is of the Supreme type."

### Joes Dark Magic Girl 1-31-53

Mrs. A. C. Hasenyager  
Box 213  
Tecumseh, Nebraska

"This plant has the rich red and bronze color in the foliage. The leaves are about 1/3" longer than they are wide, at the tip of leaf the scallops are wide and shallow gradually narrowing and becoming deeper as they reach the base of leaf there is a swirl backward making a circle on both sides of the leaf similar to a pair of ear rings. The petioles are very red -- the red color extends up the back of leaf, becoming a little paler as it reaches the tip of leaf. The tops of leaves get very dark bronze. Blooms are intense dark blue. Medium size plant."

### Jo's Jody Girl 1-31-53

Mrs. A. C. Hasenyager  
Box 213  
Tecumseh, Nebraska

"Cross of unnamed seedling, slick shiny dark green foliage. Leaves are round, sometimes so full there is an extra fold in the leaf. Leaves are very quilted, young leaves very cupped. Petioles and backs of leaves are rosy red, the white "girl" marking is large with spokes radiating into the green. Blossoms are huge, full moon shape, good medium blue, backs of petals have a pink shading similar to Evening Sunset. A good bloomer propagates readily."



**Kansas City Girl 12-21-52**

Mrs. George F. Pendleton  
403 W. 69th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri

"An upright plant with exceptionally thick textured girl foliage. The top side of the leaves is quite dark green -- the underside light green. The light red to orchid blossoms which are held above the foliage are mammoth. The two top petals are slightly darker."

**Lavender Elfin Girl 3-17-53**

Mrs. Will E. Wilson  
1937 Drumm Avenue  
Independence, Missouri

"Has curling leaves of shining, emerald green with a white zone, rayed out to the edge. The lower part of the leaf is finely cut with each tiny segment lavishly trimmed with white. The clear lavender flowers have slightly darker upper petals and are held proudly above the foliage on six inch stems. It has held its flowers seventeen days by the calendar."

**Lilac Beauty 12-18-52**

Mrs. Irvin R. Furnish  
Florence, Indiana

"Medium size bronze green leaves, the younger center leaves showing a streak of lighter green up the center of the leaf. This fades out in the older leaves. Lilac Beauty is true lilac in color with a darker ring around the anthers or pollen sacs. It is a profuse blomer, and likes direct sunlight. Blooms almost constantly."

**Mary S. 2-25-53**

Mrs. George Stanley  
Rt. 1  
Madison, Connecticut

"Mary S. is a seedling of Pink Beauty crossed with Ionantha. Has blue violet blossoms well above the foliage 7 to 9 on a stem. Has medium dark green leaves evenly scalloped. Plant is a symmetrical and has been propagated twice from leaf cuttings."

**Miss Des Moines 2-14-53**

Mrs. Ferne V. Kellar  
1223 E. Oak Park  
Des Moines, Iowa

"A seedling from Hybrid Girls cross. Very large. Large leafy girl foliage, dark bronze green with creamy white center, scalloped, ruffled edge forming many curly ruffles at petiole when plant is matured. Free flowering on long stems, round pansy purple flowers."

**Puget Pearl 3-6-53**

Mrs. Henry Moore  
9020 18th, S. W.  
Seattle 6, Washington

"The round flowers are quite red violet when they open, growing lighter in color as they age, with a silvery sheen over all. The darker coloring remains longer in the center and around the outer part of the petals, with a fine line of the darker color around the very edge of each petal. It is not a bi-color at all, but the darker color has suffused through the flower."

**Redcap 1-26-53**

Mrs. Olga Rolf Tieman  
Westboro, Missouri

"Leaves are plain green, quilted very slightly, are nice fat hearts when small but have a more roundish appearance with age. The round blossoms are a redder-red than Redhead produces and keep their color without fading. The plants bloom profusely even when small."

**Red Elfin Girl 3-17-53**

Mrs. Will E. Wilson  
1937 Drumm Avenue  
Independence, Missouri

"Red Elfin Girl has the same foliage and growing habits as the lavender but the flowers are a good, non-fading red and remain on plant for many days."

**Ruffled Prince 12-18-53**

Mrs. Irvin R. Furnish  
Florence, Indiana

"Has medium size dark green leaves, similar to Blue Boy. Its color is very slightly lighter than Blue Boy, with the Center around the anthers, fully as dark as Blue Boy. The

bloom is unusual as it has a tiny, dainty, fluted ruffle entirely around each petal, making a lovely plant when in full bloom. A very prolific bloomer."

**Salem Gem 2-8-52**

Mrs. Jessie M. Lewis  
323 Morrison Avenue  
Salem, New Jersey

"The plant is an eye-catcher because of the contrast of the delicate lavender flowers with their very pronounced white edge against the dark green foliage. The plant has a natural tendency to grow single crowned and thus the effect of neatness is enhanced. The flowers are not the same shade as those of Rainbow Geneva, the latter having more of a reddish cast. The foliage is stronger and a darker green. The white edge on the flowers does not fade out."

**Volute Girl 2-14-53**

Mrs. Ferne V. Kellar  
1223 E. Oak Park  
Des Moines, Iowa

"Plant medium size. Free flowering on long stems, round medium blue flowers. dark shiny green girl foliage, very scalloped and ruffled, a good white spot in center."

**PART II****NAME RESERVATIONS**

Alaska Sunset  
Aloha Lady  
Anna's Masterpiece  
Aqua Jewel  
Ariel  
Atlas  
Aztec  
Azure Cloud  
Azure Dream  
Azure Mist  
Azure Moonglow  
Azure Vapor  
Azure Veil  
Becky Lambie  
Belmont  
Bettina  
Beyond Belief  
Blackamoor  
Black Magic  
Blakemore  
Blue Frost  
Black Giant  
Blue Triumph  
Blue Wax Wing  
Blue Zephyr  
Bonnie Lass  
Bronze Maid  
Bronze Old Lavender  
Burgundy Chimes  
Burning Bush  
Calcutta  
Cavalier  
Caressing  
Changeling Jewel  
Cherokee Princess  
Cherie  
Cherrio  
Cochet  
Columbia Blue  
Contraband  
Coronation  
Coronet  
Crystal Ice  
Dainty Duchess  
Delaware Queen  
Desert Sunset  
Diamond Frost  
Dimples  
Donna Girl  
Double Sunrise  
Du Barry  
DuPont Royal  
\*Easter Bonnet  
Edith Cavell  
Elf Queen  
Ellen  
Extravaganza  
Fairy Ballet  
Fairy Doll  
Fairy Miss  
First Lady  
Fleur Petite

Little Gal  
Little Girl  
Little Guy  
Little Lady  
Lorelai  
Lovable  
Lucerne  
Luminosa  
Madame Cochet  
\*Magic  
Maytime  
Melissa  
Melody  
Milady's Slipper  
Misty Mauve  
Moonlite Girl  
Morocco  
Mountain Sky  
Multiflora  
Nancy Ann  
Naughty Girl  
Navy Girl  
New Hope  
Noel  
\*Northern  
Northern Prize  
Northern Ghost  
Olive Branch  
Orchid Frost  
Orchid Sequin  
Ossian Blue  
Outer Space  
Pandora  
Paramount  
Pastel Princess  
Potomac Princess  
Pearl  
Pink Cloud  
Pink Champagne  
Pink Diamonds  
Polly Ann  
Pompadour  
Prince Charming  
Princess Marguerite  
Puget  
Purple Princess  
Queen Bess  
Queensroyal  
Rainbow King  
Red Giant  
Red Sparkle  
Revelation  
Reverie  
Reverie Fire  
Richelieu  
Rippling Girl  
Rippling Rose  
Robinhood  
Rosered Fire  
Rosered Sparkle  
Rose Watrous  
Royal Gem



\*Flora  
 Florence Nightingale  
 Fluorescent  
 Fringed Red Duchess  
 Frosted Fire  
 Galahad  
 Gay Glitter  
 General's Lady  
 Grenoble  
 Hawaiian Star  
 Heather Susan  
 Hildegard  
 \*Hybridia  
 Hybridia Revelation  
 Hybridia Vanessa  
 Jubilee  
 Juliet  
 Jennifer  
 Kansas Aphrodite  
 Kansas Double Frosty Morning  
 Kansas Enchanted Evening  
 Kansas Frosty Morning  
 Kansas Glory  
 Kansas Lover Boy  
 Kansas Raspberries  
 Kansas Stardust  
 Kansas Sweet Pea  
 Kewpie Doll  
 King Midas  
 Kingsroyal  
 Lavender Pink Girl  
 Lavender Sequin  
 Liberte  
 Lilac Queen  
 Lil Angel  
 Lil Blue Jewel  
 Lil Colonel  
 Lil Dutch Doll  
 Lil Major  
 Lil Nobleman  
 Lil Vixen

Royal Salute  
 Roxanne  
 Rubyette  
 Ruffled Treasure  
 Saffron Rosalie  
 Santa Barbara  
 Satan's Pride  
 Seminole  
 Sensation  
 Shy Miss  
 Silhouettes  
 Silverglow  
 Sir Lancelot  
 Snow Sparkle  
 Snow Top  
 Sparkling Burgundy  
 Stormy Maiden  
 Strawberry Girl  
 \*Sueland  
 Sunglow  
 Sylvania  
 Temptress  
 The General  
 The President  
 Twinkle Toes  
 Universe  
 Veiled Dream  
 Veiled Lady  
 Velvet Prince  
 Warrior Lady  
 Wave Time  
 White Giant  
 White Sparkle  
 Windanola  
 Wine Tips  
 Willowmere  
 Wonder  
 Wyandotte  
 Zeb  
 Zebra  
 Zombia

\*Designates Series Reservation

### PART III

#### CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

The name of TINARI'S PINK (published September 1951) has been changed to TINARI'S PINK LUSTER.

The plant SWEETHEART, on which an application was published in error in December 1952, has been re-named HAWTHORN.

The name INDIAN MAIDEN (published December 1952) conflicted with several other similar names, so was changed to MISS BATTLE CREEK. The description has also been improved as follows:

"Girl type foliage. Leaves sharply pointed, suggesting arrowhead shape, thick and crisp, and fluted. Dark green, girl spot outlined mulberry, back of leaf light green flushed mulberry. Blossoms Lilac in color. Plant has buoyancy of form, semi upright."

The applications on KEHL'S GENEVA GIRL and KEHL'S RED GENEVA GIRL have been withdrawn by the applicant.

### PART IV

Application cards were received on the following plants during this period, but no written descriptions accompanied them, so publication is withheld until descriptions are furnished:

Arbutus Pink  
 Blondie Girl  
 Crimson Glory  
 Fairbury Beauty

Ruffled Triumph  
 Tiny Doll  
 White Sailor Girl  
 Yellow Brown Boy Select

### PART V

#### OBJECTIONS

Objections have been received on the following plants:

Breath of Spring  
 Crested Plato, Antique Marble  
 Crested Plato, Bagonia  
 Crested Plato, Blue Spruce  
 Crested Plato, Bridal Wreath  
 Crested Plato, Climax  
 Crested Plato, Cutie  
 Crested Plato, Driftwood  
 Crested Plato, Goldleaf  
 Crested Plato, Heaven Sent  
 Crested Plato, Harbor Lights  
 Crested Plato, May Apple  
 Crested Plato, Mipal Edwin  
 Crested Plato, My Rosery  
 Crested Plato, Old Smoky  
 Crested Plato, Paul Martin  
 Crested Plato, Primrose  
 Crested Plato, Prof. Carrick Wildon  
 Crested Plato, Prof. Evans Roberts  
 Crested Plato, Purple Heather  
 Crested Plato, Ruffled Nylon  
 Crested Plato, Romance  
 Crested Plato, Ruth Yoars  
 Crested Plato, Shamrock  
 Crested Plato, Slopoke  
 Crested Plato, Snow Flake  
 Crested Plato, Summer Breeze  
 Crested Plato, Varigeta  
 Crested Plato, Whispering Hope  
 Crested Weeping Angel  
 Crested Weeping, April Showers  
 Crested Weeping, Baby Doll  
 Crested Weeping, Beauty  
 Crested Weeping, Birch  
 Crested Weeping, Inspiration  
 Crested Weeping, Lorna Doone  
 Crested Weeping, Nymph  
 Crested Weeping, Strelitza  
 Crested Weeping, Willow  
 Dr. Frederick Swartz  
 Hawthorn (published as Sweetheart)  
 Hypatica  
 Pink Honeysuckle  
 Purplesheen  
 Spring Beauty

These plants are, therefore, ineligible for National Awards in local shows.

### PART VI

#### REGISTRATIONS BECOME PERMANENT

The protest period on plants published in the March 1952 Registration Report has now expired. No objections have been received.

However, in view of the impending revision of the Registration procedure, no registrations are declared permanent in this Report.

## WHILE TRAVELING THROUGH BUCYRUS

PLAN TO SEE OUR AFRICAN VIOLETS  
 OVER 175 VARIETIES

MRS. NINA C. KLINK

Bucyrus, Ohio

R. R. No. 1, LOCATED ON STATE ROUTE No. 4,  
 NORTH OF BUCYRUS FOUR MILES  
 WE DO NOT SHIP



# *Call It Violetis Africanus*

## *It Is Quite Intoxicating*

Gertrude C. Prewitt, Kansas City, Kansas

Reams have been written about the joys of African violet culture as an interesting hobby, yet not even your best friends will tell you of the danger lurking therein. They, too, may be addicts of this new form of hasheesh, which I have dubbed "Violetis Africanus."

You launch into this seemingly benign hobby with a maximum of nonchalance and not one whit of misgiving. You can take it or leave it. That's what you think. You never were so wrong!

Addiction begins with the first orphan leaf you place in soil, water or vermiculite. Soon the offspring from your initial plant are so numerous that Mrs. Peter Cottontail no longer has any laurels to look to.

This is followed by what is known as the leaf-trading period. During this phase you add several new varieties to your collection. When these mature the vicious circle is given new impetus, as you now have more and more leaves for propagation. You are thrilled no end as you feast your eyes upon the beauty of Pink Lady, Blue Boy (or Girl), Red Head, Lady Geneva and several "unknown" whites, blues and bi-colors.

Your joy is short-lived, for now you pass into another stage of narcotism. It is now that you discover the Supremes, the duPonts and the Doubles. Naturally, adding these to your collection definitely becomes a must. When this is accomplished you have more and more leaves for propagation. See what I mean?

The next stage is marked by frequent visits to the commercial growers. This is when Violetis Africanus really gets you, but good. Your conscience ceases to be your guide as the grocery budget is tapped to the point of exhaustion. You now are gloating fatuously over Commodore, Mentor Boy, Red Lady, Sailor Boy and (Girl), Blue Chard, Orchid Beauty, Blue Bird and others ad infinitum . . .

The last stage is when you learn the trick of pollination and begin to cross the different varieties. Soon you have seeds to plant in addition to leaves on end. Your dreams are haunted by spectacular yellows and gigantic varieties which you hope to produce. By now there's no turning back.

All too late you realize that you have increased your home work a hundred fold and that the violets are actually crowding you out of your house. Potted plants are everywhere, from the basement clear up to Mabel's room. The extent to which you are enmeshed begins to dawn upon you when friend-husband has to have three stitches taken to close a gash on his head caused by falling pots. Of course, he should have known better than to have raised the bedroom window. When you find yourself saying that you "just can't bear to throw away a leaf" you're a goner, that's for sure! Only an African Violets Anonymous can save you . . . or me.

### PLANTSMITHS **SPOONIT**

The CAN'T-BE-BEAT-FOOD

For African Violets

Send post card for information about my generous trial offer.

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Box 818A

Palo Alto, Calif.

### VIOLET SPECIAL

Fine, healthy, state inspected, giant size violets out of two inch pots full of bloom and buds. We have thousands of satisfied customers. 175 varieties to choose from.

Write for our list of varieties

10 assorted	50 cents each
25 assorted	35 cents each
100 assorted	30 cents each
1000 assorted	25 cents each

SHIPPED EXPRESS COLLECT

BETTY LOU GREENHOUSES

FRANKFORT, INDIANA





HELEN POCHUREK

Arthur Road

Solon, Ohio

Homing Pigeon

News Editor

(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

#### Dear Pigeons:

Many thanks for the fine hints you have sent me. I have used most of them and hope my readers will find them helpful.

By the time you read this column, another wonderful Convention will have come and gone. I am sure that it will give me the lift that I sorely need. I had hoped to show some beautiful seedlings in Nashville, but fate had decreed otherwise. Early in February, a fire destroyed our violet house and my plants, including most of my seedlings. It was a terrible sight to a lover of violets, I can assure you. Many of you have been very helpful and I am most grateful to all you wonderful people who have sent me leaves and plants to help us build our stock again. I hope to have a small greenhouse going again this summer and will continue my hybridizing with violets and their cousins.

May you all take a blue ribbon at your spring shows and good growing to you all.

Your Hint Hunter  
Helen Pochurek

Aluminum foil seems to be a favorite item for all violet growers. Here are just a few uses our Pigeons have for it.

To use any kind of cardboard container for rooting leaves, line with aluminum foil, being careful not to tear it. They are much lighter than wooden boxes and may be made in convenient sizes.

Helen Pottruff, Lansing, Mich.

Mold heavy aluminum foil over a board and turn up the edges to form a tray to hold seedling pots.

Viola Wilson, Green Tree Branch, Independence, Mo.

Dip rims of pots in paraffine and press a narrow piece of aluminum foil over the rim then press it down tight. This will stick like glue and looks very nice, too.

Mrs. W. A. Hartman, Unit 17, Kansas City, Mo.

A long tube made of aluminum foil is very helpful in watering large plants. Form a tube -- like a pencil and insert in the soil about 2 inches. Water or fertilize through this tube.

Mrs. Geo. Stanley, Madison, Conn.

A 25 cent plastic hotcap that is used in outdoor gardens makes a good cover over a pot of seedlings. Forms a miniature greenhouse.

Jo Hasenyager, Seed Sowers No. 6, Nebr.

It is an easy matter to clean pots. Soak them in a solution of Clorox and water. It will dissolve the encrustation on the pots. (Hint Editors Note-- why not use the same water that you have used to bleach your clothes?)

Lillian Bennett, Unit 55, Manhattan, Kans.

Use a piece of wire with a one-half inch mesh over a wide mouth jar to root suckers. Suckers can be gently pushed through the wire and will be held out of the water.

Pearl Spink, Unit 104, Los Angeles, Calif.

I have measured NNOR spray so that I can mix exactly what my sprayer will hold. Just five drops in one measuring cup of warm water is sufficient. No waste in this way as the solution should be used at once.

Helen Pottruff, Lansing, Mich.

Use baby food cans for potting small plants. They are light in weight, take up little space and hold the moisture well. Be sure though to cut the bottom almost out before potting up. Then when plants need transplanting, just push out.

Mrs. T. J. Hardesty, Corning, Iowa

Plastic Aquapics -- the ones such as are used in floral work -- especially when using orchids -- are fine for rooting individual leaves. I use rain water in them and stick them in a large flower pot of sand or dirt. It saves space and the color of the pics (green) seem to encourage early rooting. I have had them root in a week.

Bee Wills, Elgin, Ill.





**IVA WOODS**  
 226 High Street  
 New Wilmington, Penna.  
**Homing Pigeon**  
**Membership Manager**

An old fashioned candy case with glass sides and glass doors on top made a fine greenhouse for rooting leaves. A galvanized pan 4 inches deep was made to fit bottom of case. A layer of sand -- then potting soil and peat moss topped with vermiculite. This was dampened and leaves were inserted. The lid was kept closed and aired just once a day, by propping up with a stick.

Mrs. C. E. Sproul, Sparta, Ill.

Our home is heated with stoves and fireplaces and is difficult to keep an even temperature. I had difficulty getting plants to bloom in the winter for that reason. (Attention Clyde Smith). I finally purchased some heating cables that are advertised in the Magazine. I connected them and just laid them on my window sills and set the plants right on them. In a very short time, my violets began to bloom and have been blooming ever since. I am sure that the even heat is what did the trick. It costs very little to operate these electric cables.

**Dear Members:**

As the weeks pass I feel that I am getting to know you through your letters and your suggestions. We are continuing to grow and requests are continuing to come in for sectional groups; Canada, Pacific Northwest, and the East are still not filled. The most common complaint is that the Pigeon does not wing fast enough to keep up interest. Bear in mind that the swifter it returns, the more interest you will have in what has been written, so do hurry them along.

As the corrected lists come back, some are marked not functioning. It will be impossible to write to each of you to see if you are still interested, so if you are, will you please write to me, send me your introductory letter and you will be assigned to a new group. We do not promise to solve all problems but will do the best we can, so do not hesitate to write to us.

This is a glorious spring morning and my plants do look so cheerful now. It is ahead of the blooming season outside. When you read this it will be June and all of you will have thrilled many times at the beauty of the out-of-doors. But we can all say "thanks" to our violets for their cheerfulness during the winter months.

Sincerely,  
**Iva Woods**



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Mrs. Stanley MacLaren, Pres.  
3109 Maple Ave.  
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# Requirements For Affiliation

Greetings to the ever growing family of AFFILIATED CHAPTERS. My apologies to those of you who have been put to inconvenience while I was getting organized. Most of the wrinkles are ironed out now, so that I hope to get all mail answered promptly. But YOU can help me speed up your affiliation.

So many of you write, "We are anxious to become affiliated with the African Violet Society of America, Inc. Enclosed is our check for \$2.50." Or, on the other hand, some of you send all the records without the check for membership fee. The membership fee alone does not permit a local club or society to become an Affiliated Chapter, nor do the records alone. Both are required.

It will profit each officer responsible for assembling the information to be submitted for affiliation to read the President's Message in the June issue of the Magazine, Volume 5, Number 4, and again in the September issue, Volume 6, Number 1. Also the article, written by our beloved Mr. Edens, on page 33 of the December issue, Volume 6, Number 2. While you are reading, especially if you have not compiled your constitution, look up the MEMBERS HANDBOOK for 1952 and 1953 and read "Local Affiliated Chapters of African Violet Society of America, Inc." on page 106. Give special attention to CONDITIONS OF AFFILIATION. It states what your constitution shall contain, as an Affiliated Chapter.

Note: the third requisite in each of the first three messages mentioned is that a copy of your constitution and by-laws must be submitted to the African Violet Society of America for approval. Also notice, after you qualify locally, this is the first record you are asked to send us. Therefore, it would be folly to accept your money until this little item is taken care of. With close to 200 Affiliated Chapters qualified, not one has been rejected; but you know that well worn saying, "there is the first time for everything." If a copy of the constitution and by-laws, a list of officers, and a complete list of members designating those who are members of African Violet Society of America, Inc. with correct addresses accompanys the check of \$2.50 for membership fee, anxiety for quick affiliation will be fulfilled without delay.

Before you seal the envelope containing affiliation records, check against these five requirements.

1. At least 25% of each Chapter's local members must also be members of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

2. All officers of each Affiliated Chapter must be members of African Violet Society of America, Inc.

3. Each Affiliated Chapter must submit a copy of its constitution and by-laws, and all amendments thereto, to African Violet Society of America, Inc.

4. Each Affiliated Chapter must submit a copy of its entire membership, (designating those who are also members of African Violet Society of America, Inc.) including a list of the names and addresses of its officers. Such list is to be composed of the names and addresses of all local members. These lists are to be submitted once each year immediately after the election of new officers by Affiliated Chapters.

5. Each Affiliated Chapter must pay to African Violet Society of America, Inc. an annual membership fee of \$2.50.

I am waiting to help you if I can. Feel free to write me.

## When You Need African Violets

Look For

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# **My Transplanting Method**

**Thelma Delgado, Junction City, Kansas**

When we separate the little plantlets from the mother leaf, we plant each little plantlet in a mixture of one-half peat moss and one-half sand. We add some Sponge Rok to this material for aerating purposes. We use little one-inch pots for small plantlets. After the plantlets have grown until roots show out the bottom hole, or the plantlets are too heavy for one-inch pots, it is time to transplant them into a two and one-half inch clay pot of soil mixture. We like some Sponge Rok added to whatever soil mixture is used for aerating.

Place a clean piece of broken pot over the hole in the 2½ inch pot, add a little soil and then place a one-inch pot on top of it so the top of the pot is even with the 2½ inch pot rim. Now fill the 2½ inch pot with soil, pressing down gently so ½ inch is left between the two pots. Now move the little pot round and round to loosen it and remove it from the soil. Take the little plant in one-inch pot and use a large nail to push up on crock to remove the plant gently without disturbing sand, peat moss or roots. Remove crock from bottom and then take off several of the lower leaves from the plant. Drop the plant gently into the prepared 2½ inch pot, disturb the soil at pot edge so it fills in around the ball of peat moss and sand. Water from the top with warm water the first time. Plants can be left to grow in the 2½ inch pots to bloom the first time, or the little plants of varieties that are known to mature to a huge size can be put directly from the one-inch pot into a three-inch pot and left to bloom the first time.

After the plant has bloomed the first time it will need to be potted in a larger pot. A plant growing in a 2½ inch or 3 inch pot will need a regular 4 inch clay pot. We take the 4 inch clay pot, put the broken crock or pot piece over the hole and then put a Gro-Quick fiberglass aerating pad over this broken piece of pot. We split these pads and make 3 out of one, as it is not needed so thick when Sponge Rok is also used as an aerator. Over the pad put some soil -- only an inch or two of soil will be needed -- then fit a pot on the soil -- use a pot the same size the plant to be transplanted is in, and fill around it, pressing down gently to one-half inch below the pot rim. Wiggle the inside pot round and round



to loosen it, and then remove it. Take your plant and push up on the crotch through the hole in the bottom with a nail, remove gently the piece of crotch and fiberglass pad if any is on the bottom. Remove all the lower leaves that have produced flower stems. Remove what soil will come off easily from the top but do not disturb the bottom or any roots. Now gently set the plant in the larger pot. Make a paper funnel and place between the leaves and fill in with soil around the plant, press down gently and water with warm water from the top. If the soil settles too much, fill in with soil to within one-half inch from the top. Care for your plant as usual. Plants transplanted by this method never stop blooming -- they suffer no shock or wilting, and never know they have been moved.

In planting an old plant with a long "neck," care must be used to have a pot large enough so it will be deep enough to bury this long neck in the pot. But if a plant starts in a one or two inch pot and is transplanted after it has bloomed

into a next larger pot, removing all the leaves that have produced bloom stems each time it will never grow with a long "neck." It will be more firm in the pot as new roots grow where the leaves were removed. Plants that are not treated in this way as they are transplanted will become wiggly in the pot as they grow old and heavy.

Plants that are grown this way from plantlets will have a heavy root system up the entire stalk of crown. So if you don't care to go into larger sized pots than 5 or 6 inch pots, yet you still want to keep your old plant, you can just slice it off the bottom of the stalk -- roots and earth -- there will be plenty of roots left, and plant can be put in a smaller pot -- where it would need an 8 or 10 inch pot otherwise. This method keeps a plant in beautiful form always.

Plants that have grown long "necks" can be cut off and re-rooted but they don't keep their fine shape or bloom continuously as they do when transplanted by our method.



## Here's proof that YOU can grow PRIZE WINNING AFRICAN VIOLETS

### Here's how Delphine Hotchkiss took 6 top prizes:

"I follow two important rules in lighting and feedings, says Mrs. Hotchkiss: I use fluorescent lighting and liquid plant food. I've tried more than one liquid plant food and have found that PLANT MARVEL gives me the best blooms. If you want larger, more abundant blossoms on your African violets, I recommend PLANT MARVEL. It gives my plants the necessary 'oomph' to come into full bloom with

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PLANT MARVEL is a 100% soluble, scientifically-balanced food for all plants and particularly for African violet rootlets which absorb it instantly.

**FREE:** The full story of how Mrs. Hotchkiss grows prize winning African violets. Write



Ask your local florist or garden supply shop, or send \$1.25 for enough to make 250 gallons!

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Surface feeding means surface roots



Local feeding -- note scalded roots



Plant Marvel feeds the entire root system



# AFRICAN VIOLETS AND A HOME FREEZER

Florence Foltz, Lewistown, Penna.

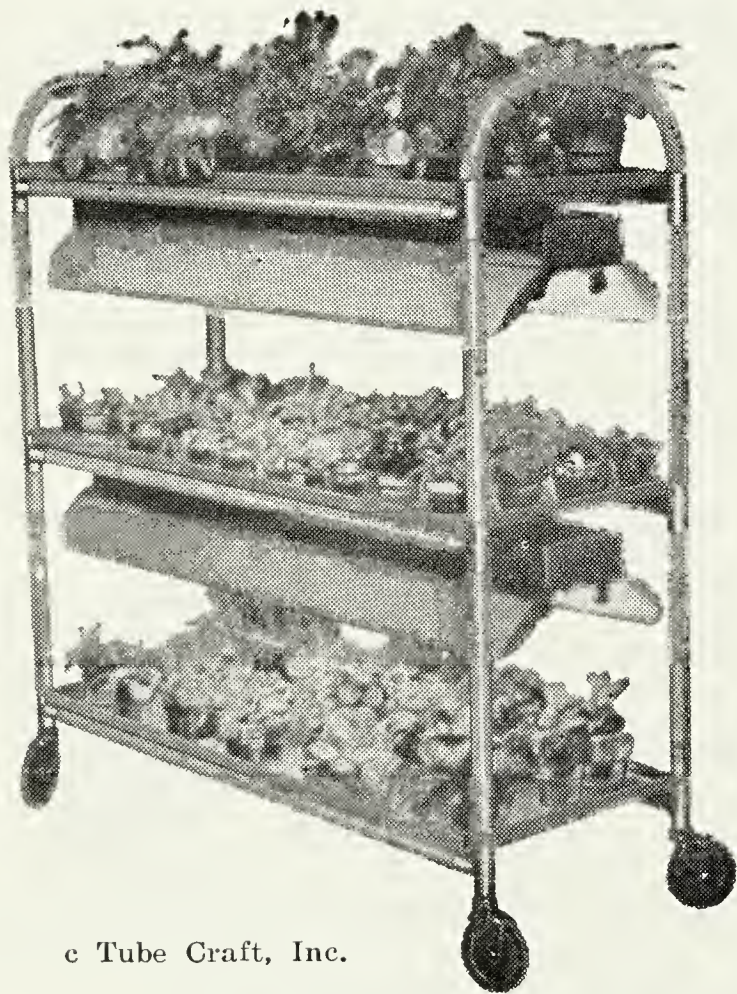
Looking back, I wonder how I ever raised African violets before we had our home freezer. According to the advertising, freezers are nice because one can "thaw," a meal while busy working . . . and in that sense, it is a big help. However, my reasons are slightly different.

Various sizes of polyethelene bags are used in a number of ways. A small bag makes a nice "wrap" for a small plant being packed for mailing. Cellophane can be cut and made into bags for mailing leaves. The bottoms of bags make nice "tops" for over pots of seed. When my rubber gloves, which were to be elbow length, were too short, I cut the bottoms off of two "chicken size" bags, and extended the gloves to my elbows by means of rubber bands and the two bags.

Heavy aluminum foil may be made into nice trays for small pots on window sills, and, with care can be made into larger trays. I have a 3 x 5 ft. table filled with trays made of it.

The pay-off came one day when our 14-year old son asked, "What does Daddy think about you using those good plastic freezer boxes for violet leaves?" They make elegant little greenhouses!

I suppose one could use all these things without investing in a freezer, but in our case, my using them came as a result of having them on hand. So far, I have resisted the temptation to stick a "non-blooming" plant in the freezer. If I ever do, I presume you'll hear about it.



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## PRICES

Model B - \$52.50 (without fluorescent fixtures)

Shipping Wgt. 100 lbs.

Model C - \$41.50 (without fluorescent fixtures)

Shipping Wgt. 75 lbs.

Fluorescent Fixtures (less tubes) - \$11.50 each

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All prices f.o.b. Cleveland, Ohio. Remit by check or money order. Ohio customers add 3% sales tax.

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### OF YOUR AFRICAN VIOLETS

#### GET A

#### TUBE CRAFT FLORACART

The FloraCart enables you to keep all your plants in one place for easy care, less work, and better results. Makes enjoyable the once arduous task of caring for a large number of plants. Contains water proof trays 1½" deep to permit easy watering. An added feature of great convenience is a solid brass Drain Cock in each tray which permits the draining off of surplus water when necessary -- without moving plants or trays.

By the addition of fluorescent fixtures, you can give your plants ideal growing conditions. If cared for properly and given adequate light, African Violets should bloom continuously.

You will especially appreciate the FloraCart in the summer time when plants are often lost because of high temperature. The Floracart can be placed in the basement where the cool, moist temperature which African Violets require will keep them healthy and growing.

The FloraCart comes in two sizes. Model B (illustrated at left) is 52" long x 19" deep x 57" high and has 3 shelves. Model C is 52" long x 19" deep x 37" high and has 2 shelves. Both are finished in gray baked enamel. Shipped knocked down with all necessary fittings for easy home assembly. Fully guaranteed against defects in material or construction.

Write for descriptive folder and group purchase plan

**Tube  
Craft**

*inc.* Dept. C., 1950 W. 114th Street, Cleveland 2, Ohio



## ABIDE BY MENDEL

Cont. from Page 19

ratio is the best known ratio in the science of genetics. What does the 3:1 ratio mean?

The 3:1 ratio is the logical result of the combination of equal numbers of girl and boy type pollen cells with equal numbers of girl and boy type egg cells. It was mentioned before that in the leaves, stems, roots and most other parts of our girl type plant there is one dominant gene for girl and a partner gene for boy type. The latter does not show because it is covered up and concealed by the girl type characteristic. In the reproductive parts of the flower the above is not always the case. In the young flower a remarkable process called **meiosis** produces a separation of the girl and boy genes in the production of the pollen cells and the egg cells. They do **not** have both the girl and the boy type genes in each cell but only one **or** the other. Hence, half of the pollen grains will have the boy gene but not the girl gene; the other half will have the girl gene but not the boy. The same is true for the egg cells.

We can use capital and small letters to indicate our dominant and recessive genes. So **G** would indicate the dominant girl type gene and **g** the recessive boy gene. Half of the pollen and half of the egg cells will have **G** and the other half will have **g**.

When Red Head Girl was self-fertilized the following combinations of **G** and **g** to produce the seeds occurred.

The diagram shows that one quarter of the seeds will produce plants with **GG** leaves (girl type) and two quarters (one half) will produce plants with **Gg** leaves (girl type again) and only one quarter will produce plants with **gg** leaves (boy type). We have a total of three quarters (the **GG** and **Gg**) producing girl type plants to one quarter (**gg**) with boy type leaves. This is the 3:1 ratio. Now we know why we observed 40 girl type plants to only 12 boy type.

A most intriguing question arises now. Do the girl plants with two girl genes present (**GG**) look any different from the girl plants with **one** girl and one boy gene (**Gg**)? The answer is that sometimes they do but usually they don't. Of the 40 girl type seedlings from our selfing of Red Head Girl, only four were obviously **GG**. These four were dwarf plants. These four plants are now 17 months old; their leaves have practically no stems, the white areas of the leaves are completely chaotic in arrangement and an occasional leaf will be entirely white. The creases and cuts into a leaf are so extensive that it has no distinctive form; it looks almost like the thallus of a lower form of plant life. Figure 2 shows an

ordinary small girl type plant (**Gg**) on the left and the smallest of the plants having two girl genes (**GG**) on the right. Both plants were 15 months old when the photograph was taken. The dwarf was, and still is, about one inch tall.

The plants which definitely had two doses of the girl gene graded into the group of plants with only one girl gene present like the parent. The plants with two girl genes do not have commercial promise.

Let's take time out now for a cup of coffee before digesting a more complicated cross.

### II. MENDEL'S SECOND LAW, THE PRINCIPLE OF INDEPENDENT ASSORTMENT.

This law resembles the first one in that it emphasizes the independent nature of the genes. The first law is concerned only with a **single pair** of genes affecting **one** characteristic, namely the girl or boy type of leaf. We saw that in the hybrid the boy type gene was present but concealed by the dominant girl type gene. In the next generation the recessive boy type gene segregated out in the double dose without having been changed or altered in any way by contact with the girl type -- the principle of segregation.

Mendel's second law predicts that **two or more** pairs of genes affecting different characteristics of the plant will behave entirely independently of each other. Thus, we are about to see that the girl-boy pair of genes will sort out in crosses entirely independently of the sorting out of the pair of genes for double or single flowers. Neither one of these two pairs of genes affecting leaves or flowers will help or hinder the appearance of the other. They will assort out in the hybrids entirely independently of each other.

When "Double Neptune" was crossed with various single flowered varieties a total of 70 hybrids were raised; of these 42 were single flowered to 28 double flowered. The most exact ratio obtainable would have been 35 of each type, the expected 1:1 ratio. Our observations deviate by seven plants from perfect agreement with the expectation of 35 of each type. This deviation is not large enough to cause any concern; it is the kind of random deviation usually found in small numerical samples.

In only one of the above crosses of Double Neptune (which has boy type leaves) was the other parent of the girl type. In this cross the mother was our old friend Red Head Girl (girl leaves, single flowers) with the father being Double Neptune (boy leaves, double flowers). According to Mendel's second law, we should get four different kinds of offspring from this cross with equal numbers of each type. Even though only 26 plants were raised from this cross we would expect that the four types would approximate the 1:1:1:1 ratio as closely as such a small group would allow. Table 2 shows that such was the case.



TABLE 1  
 THE CROSSES OF GIRL TYPE BY BOY TYPE VARIETIES  
 (1:1 ratio)

Varieties crossed (parents)		Number of offspring raised	
Girl Type	x Boy Type	Girl Type	Boy Type
1. Pink Girl	x Double Neptune	1	2
2. Blue Queen	x Fantasy	11	6
3. Snow Girl	x Double Neptune	8	10
4. Red Head Girl	x Red Mentor Boy	28	26
"    "    "	x Gorgeous	19	23
"    "    "	x Double Neptune	16	13
"    "    "	x Pink Amethyst	9	11
Totals		92 Girl Type	91 Boy Type

DIAGRAM

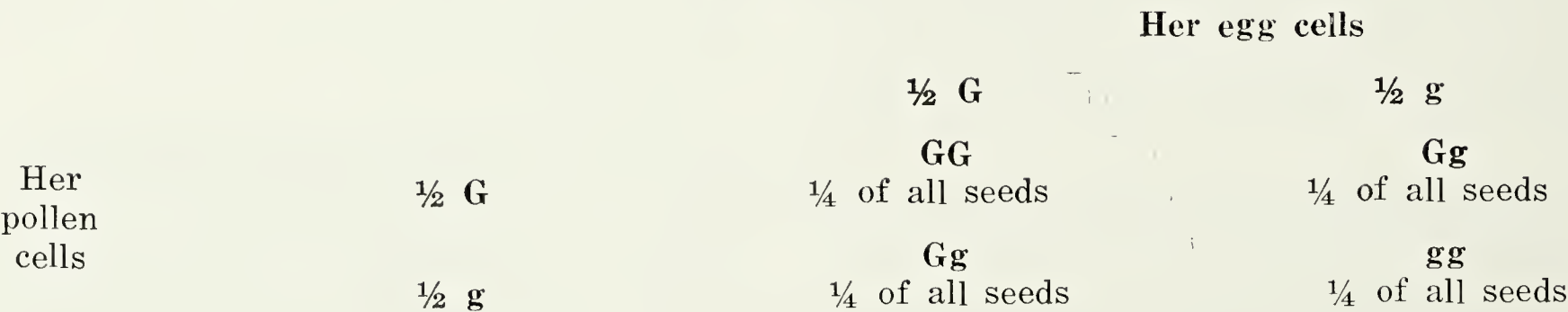


TABLE 2  
 THE CROSS OF A SINGLE-FLOWERED GIRL TYPE PLANT  
 BY A DOUBLE-FLOWERED BOY TYPE PLANT  
 (Red Head Girl x Double Neptune)

The Progeny	Observed	Expected (1:1:1:1)	Deviations
Single-flowered, girl type plants	7	6.5	0.5
Double flowered, girl type plants	6	6.5	0.5
Single flowered, boy type plants	9	6.5	2.5
Double flowered, boy type plants	4	6.5	2.5
	26	26.0	

It can be seen from the table that the largest deviation of the observed from the expected was 2.5 plants, not large enough for us to lose any sleep over; in other words, the plants obeyed Mendel's second law.

III. UTILITY OF MENDEL'S LAWS.

The crosses and their progeny which we have followed demonstrate the first two principles of heredity. There are at least two other important principles which I would be willing to demonstrate at another time, if there is any demand for more.



In the remainder of the space we should devote our attention to a practical problem and its solution. The writer wanted to produce for his collection a plant with double flowers of a good "red" color and girl type leaves. The parents of this intended variety could be those used in the cross already described in table 2, namely Red Head Girl and Double Neptune. In fact, that cross was made for this precise purpose.

From other crosses not reported here, it was clear that red is recessive to purple. Furthermore, my Double Neptune plant carries the gene for red covered up by its gene for purple. As it has one gene for red and one for purple we expect half the progeny shown in table 2 to be red and the other half purple. Such was found to be the case. Dividing each of our four classes shown in table 2 into a red and a purple half would give eight different classes expected in equal numbers. The six plants of table 2 which were double flowered with girl type leaves would be the class where three would be expected to be red and the other three purple. The three red plants expected would be the solution to our problem. Actually only one red Double Girl was obtained instead of three; however one is enough. This can be multiplied indefinitely by leaf propagation, without any appreciable variation. I am calling the new desired variety "Northern Princess."

The great utility of Mendel's laws rests in their predictive value. Because you can determine in advance the kind of crosses you must make to produce the desired plant, you can subsequently predict the proportion of the offspring which should be of the desired type. In our problem we expect one plant in eight to be the double, red, girl combination, or segregate, that we want.

How many progeny of the original cross should we raise to be sure that we will get the desired plant? If we raise only eight plants in all, we might not get the one we want even though we expect it in theory. If we raise 16 plants we expect two to be of the favored variety. If we raise 24 plants we expect three in theory and certainly should get at least one in practice, which was the case.

Without a clear understanding of the operation of Mendel's laws, crosses could have been made and several hundred progeny raised no one of which could have possibly been the desired type. Even if the correct cross had been made and, say 100 progeny raised, there would have been 88 plants which were not desired and thus a waste of space which the person without a greenhouse cannot afford. The 12 plants of the desired type out of the 100 would be more than necessary for your collection. Even a florist should not waste space in raising more of the undesirable types than necessary.

The point to all this is that, if we really understand Mendel's two rules, we can breed the new variety that we want just as satisfactorily in a window as in a whole greenhouse. That is true only if we -- abide by Mendel!

### AFRICAN VIOLETS

S. grotei (climber) and S. magungensis (creeper). Also S. tongwensis and S. orbicularis. These species ready for shipment after April 15. Healthy vigorous plants from 2-inch pots @ \$2.50 each. 50¢ extra if mailed via air.

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BOX 20-M FENTON, MICHIGAN

### WINDOVER POTTING SOIL FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

Sterilized with LARVACIDE. Contains 45% flaky leafmold (mostly oak) plus woodland top-soil, crushed sandstone, peat moss, woodashes, bone meal, superphosphate and charcoal. Write for Quantity Prices.  
4 lbs. \$1.00 9 lbs. \$2.00 13 lbs. \$2.50

### AFRICAN VIOLET POTS

Attractive red clay pots of excellent quality, with treated edges. Customers say — "I like them better than any I have ever seen."  
4 inch squatty pots — 10 for \$2.00  
3 inch squatty pots — 12 for \$2.00  
3 inch semi-squatty pots — 14 for \$2.00  
2 1/4 inch starting pots — 24 for \$2.00  
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WE REPLACE POTS BROKEN IN SHIPMENT  
Write for F. O. B. Quantity Prices

### COARSE VERMICULITE (ZONOLITE)

Preferred by many growers over the finer Terra-Lite for rooting leaves.  
8 quarts \$1.00 — 24 quarts \$2.00

### POT LABELS

4 in. Smooth wooden, painted — 50 for 30¢  
100 for 50¢  
4 1/2 in. Lifetime white plastic — 50 for 60¢  
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EVERMARK PENCILS, made especially for writing on all plant labels . . . . . 20¢ each.

EVERYTHING POSTPAID EAST OF DENVER

### WINDOVER

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### EXCITING NEW VARIETIES

### AFRICAN VIOLETS

NOTE: HOUSE-GROWN PLANTS SOLD IN ALL SIZES AT THE ROOMS. BUT ONLY LEAF-CUTTINGS MAILED  
SEND FOR LEAF-CUTTING CATALOG TODAY

### NAOMI'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

141 HOLLEY ST. BROCKPORT, N. Y.  
Visitors always welcome except on Wednesdays. Watch for A. V. sign on front porch.



## CALLING ALL MEN

Cont. from Page 39

Irving Park Road, just west of York Road. I drop in there occasionally when in the neighborhood, and I now note that he is gradually being weaned over to the fluorescent method of raising African violets. In the back room he has many thousands and leaves and small plants all under fluorescents. Garry is a swell fellow and he is always glad to talk about violets to any one.

Keep the mail coming, boys. If any of you would like to write a short article on what you are doing, send it along; we'll find room for it sometime. Thanks to those of you who have written so far. It has certainly exceeded my expectations. Be sure to enclose a stamped, addressed envelope if you require an answer.

### AFRICAN VIOLETS

Newest varieties as they become available. The latest and standard varieties now. Blooming size plants. \$1 — \$2.25 each. My collection 500 varieties. (Do not mail).

**MRS. PAUL N. WEBB**

McHenry Ave., 2 miles South of Rt. 14  
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## HYPONEX

Grows Better Plants Faster  
In SOIL, SAND or WATER

Simply dissolve and water all your houseplants, garden flowers, vegetables, shrubs or lawn. Produces stronger plants, more and larger flowers and fruit. Excellent for starting seedlings, cuttings, transplants. Clean, odorless. Won't burn foliage or roots if used as directed. Contains all nutritional elements complete and balanced—plus vitamin B1—instantly available. Results sure.



If your dealer can't supply you send \$1 for 1 lb. can postpaid. Makes 100 gallons

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Save time and the headaches of importing.  
Send for our price list  
of violets and supplies

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AFRICAN VIOLETS**

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NORTH VANCOUVER, B. C.

## MY STRAWBERRY JAR OF VIOLETS

MILDRED HOFFMAN

I took up a challenge given in the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE a year ago, and am very proud of my results. I have a large strawberry jar, fourteen inches tall, with eight openings staggered in two rows and the top opening large enough for three plants. The jar is eight inches thick at the thickest part.

I used ordinary sized plants, not miniatures, for my venture; Now one of the largest plants measures fifteen inches from leaf, tip to tip. The plants were placed in the jar last September when small, and now they are all loaded with buds. All the materials -- rocks in the bottom, charcoal, pots for center watering, and the soil mixture -- were baked just prior to planting so that there was no chance for contamination.

Like a proud mother, I am a proud possessor of African violets and their response to my experimentation. With seventy-one varieties of plants and twenty-four new variety leaves starting, I have a lot of enjoyment as well as surprises at their response. They are my "pets."

I had so much "luck" with my large strawberry jar, I am now looking for a smaller jar to fill with miniatures.

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AFRICAN VIOLET HOME**

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West Seneca Turnpike, Anondaga Hill  
Located on Routes 20 N and 175 — 2 miles west of Syracuse.

Leaves — Plants in all sizes, featuring the best of the new introductions, no shipping.

ROUTE 2

SYRACUSE, N. Y.

PLANTS SEEDS SUPPLIES

FREE CATALOG

YOARS HOUSE PLANT NURSERY

BUNKER HILL, INDIANA



## PORTABLE LIGHT BED

Cont. from Page 28

We were intrigued, at the Rooms, upon seeing photos of the small portable unit which Mr. and Mrs. Weeks had designed and built for Mrs. Fred Flory of Geneseo, N. Y., which you may see in the accompanying picture.

Our interest was so aroused that we made a special trip to charming Mrs. Flory's home. She was most gracious and showed us her wonderful collection of African violets, together with many rare pieces of antique glass and period furniture. Her large solarium was crowded with a magnificent private collection of beautiful violets. But in spite of excellent sun light in her solarium, Mrs. Flory had found it desirable to rotate plants under fluorescent light. An additional advantage of her light unit is that it can be easily wheeled into any room in her home, for special decor and enjoyment, regardless of lighting conditions.

Whenever any violet lover is in the vicinity of Naomi's African Violet Rooms, it will certainly be well worthwhile to stop and visit. I am sure you will find, as we did, that Mrs. Weeks will be pleased to discuss your problems with you. At the same time, you will have an opportunity to see many outstanding new varieties which she is constantly selecting for her customers. And, if you are like us, several of these lovely plants will be carried home with you as treasured possessions.

### PROTECTION STRIP for AFRICAN VIOLETS

Keep your violets healthy and more beautiful by protecting them from pot rim damage. Our protection strip gives perfect results. Easily applied and remains in place.  
**SEND 50¢ WILL EQUIP EIGHT 3" POTS  
FLOWER PROTECTION**

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CHOICE NEW VARIETIES

PLANTS

Write for List

LEAVES

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HYBRIDIZERS

NEW

A new adventure in African Violets —  
You will love our new hanging basket types: Grotei X Girls, Grotei X doubles, and Grotei X large flowered singles, specially selected for use in hanging pots or fern stands. Flowers are very light to dark blue. Your choice as to color of flower and foliage type.  
Postpaid \$2.00

**SPECIAL:** Second generation Grotei hybrid seed. Having used Pink Girl and Buttons 'n' Bows in the first cross, these seeds should yield some new and completely different types. A generous packet with full instructions for planting Postpaid \$2.00

PLANTS

LEAVES

SEED

Send for list

## Orchard Nursery

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### SHELVES, TABLES, STANDS, LIGHTING SUPPLIES FOR GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS

**ALL ALUMINUM STAND**, with three big 51½ x 19½ inch welded ALUMINUM trays for bottom watering. Will accommodate 48 inch fluorescent fixtures. Send for details and actual photo. Only \$49.50 complete.  
**FLUORESCENT FIXTURES** — for use with aluminum stand or your own racks. UL approved. Only \$13.90 each or three for \$40.00.

**TIME CONTROL CLOCKS** — several models from \$10.50 up. Also suitable for electrical appliances, radios, chicken houses. Send for illustrated folder.

**ALUMINUM TRAYS** made to order. Send length, width, and depth for prices. Window sill tray 5 x 26 x 3/4 inch \$2.19.

**WINDOW SHELVES** made of white enameled steel rods, 18 inch length, two for \$3.60 (\$1.95 each) or 30 inch length \$2.95 each. Postpaid.

**SHELF TABLES** same construction as above shelves. Three shelf table 30 inches long, \$11.50. Two shelf table \$4.95 each. Send for illustrated folders showing shelves and tables.

**HARVEY J. RIDGE**

1126 Arthur Street

Wausau, Wisconsin



## THE AFRICAN VIOLET IN HOME DECORATION

Cont. from Page 9

Well, now that we have uncluttered our rooms, what next?

Choose a place in your room where there is plenty of light -- a tier table, book case, grand piano, or even a low coffee table would make a good stage. Don't have plants on everything in the room. A great deal more interest can be created by a few well-placed plants, and when these are through blooming, replace with others.

If you have a lovely view, don't spoil it by putting up glass shelves and filling them with

violets. Keep your plants low, in order to enjoy them and the view also. There are enough iron racks, painted white or green, that will hold from twelve to fifteen plants, each at a different level, so that no one plant hides another. One of these placed before a picture window or a corner window and filled with blooming plants is indeed a picture fit for a king's palace.

Things arranged in rows are never pleasing in interior decorative effects nor in the garden, and we all strive for beauty as well as comfort.

Try arranging a few African violet plants around a piece of driftwood for a radio or television decoration. Three or more violets around the base of a large potted plant such as an azalea or cut leaf philodendron add variety to an otherwise monotonous all green plant.

Now that planters are so widely used in newer homes, violets touched in between the larger plants add color and interest. Leave the plants in the pots for easy removal and in order to be able to turn them.

Dish gardens can be very attractive planted with African violets. Charcoal added to the soil prevents souring. There are special mixtures available now for such plantings, as the so-called "planter mixes," which contain all the necessary elements for healthy growth, even without drainage.

Colored mats, metal or wooden trays, used under or upright in back of a grouping lends color and interest to an otherwise completely drab corner. Then there is the strawberry jar, where violets are completely at home and eventually grow to cover the whole container. In one of these you can place from five to nine pots, depending on the type used. Using all one color or variety of plant makes a charming contribution to your picture gallery . . . Just remember to turn the jar periodically so that all of the plants will enjoy the light and to keep them from reaching for it, thereby making uneven growth.

There are now miniature African violets for those who are limited for space. They fit nicely on window sills, in small planters, and in the smaller what-not shelves. A fish bowl makes an ideal planter for some of these smaller types. Put the soil mixture slanting upwards, instead of level. This will not only display your plants charmingly, but will also help the drainage. Glass blocks are grand for stepped-up effects, as are glass bowls -- all the same color, of course.

By putting your imagination to work for you you will find a great many more interesting ways of displaying you plants, and if after reading this, you still can't part with a plant, you'd better build yourself a greenhouse and go into business. Believe me, I know . . .

### AFRICAN VIOLETS Blooming Plants and Leaves WRITE FOR LIST

MADISON GARDENS

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MADISON, OHIO



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Such outstanding varieties as: MINUET GIRL, FRINGED DOUBLE BLUE, HOLLY, PANSY BEAUTY, BLUE OHIO, BRONZE FRINGETTE, PINK ATTRACTION, INSPIRATION, PINK CHEER, DOUBLE LACE, EVENING SUNSET, SIR LANCELOT and many others.

As usual, these exclusive new beauties have been rigorously tested before being judged worthy of BALLERINA GARDENS endorsement of superior quality.



ASK FOR OUR SUMMER LIST NOW  
AVAILABLE SENT ON REQUEST

*Ballerina Gardens*

KENNETH W. GAINES

4 GREER ST

MT. VERNON, OHIO



## HOUSE PLANTS

Cont. from Page 25

high -- and African violets in every inch of space. Somehow, I enjoy my needle-point more now, because I spend so much time in that room with my plants. "It's an ill wind" -- you know!

I like to work with my plants and keep all faded or dying leaves removed and all flower stems and faded blossoms picked off. Keeping them clean adds so much to their attractiveness. One crown plants bloom best, I find. As for light, north seems best year round, but east is just about as good and south or west alright if a thin curtain is used. Plants need to be close to the window though. Sitting back on a coffee table they will never bloom I am afraid, and weak light causes too long leaf stems.

I gather from the questions folks ask me that the most common mistake they make in growing violets is over-feeding, or not feeding at all and in not giving them enough light. The worst one I ever heard was the lady who complained her violets seemed to be dying and didn't bloom. My inquiries brought out the fact that they were kept on a small table in the corner immediately behind the outside front door, at least eight feet from the nearest window, which was heavily curtained. If I were an African violet plant treated like that I'd die just for spite, wouldn't you?

I find clay pots best and painted clay very good, too. Three inch ones are my favorites, with four inch squatty ones for bigger plants. The only plant I have in a larger pot is a six year old duPont Lavender Pink in a six inch pot. It is an enormous plant and very heavy. It has been transplanted only once in the six years and has bloomed continuously the entire time. Last summer, just for a change it sent out six or eight flower stems without any flowers, just seed pods, which, however, did not mature. Then it went back to blooming as usual and has thirty immense blooms on it right now. This variety often sends up four or five large blooms before the little plants come through the ground from the leaf cuttings. Ruffles and Gorgeous sometimes do this too. Have also had plants with blue flowers and plants with orchid flowers come up in the same cluster of little plants from one leaf cutting. I suppose this is what they call reverting to the original hue.

When older plants get an unsightly long stem, I remove two or three rows of old leaves and re-plant in a little deeper pot. They always start to bloom again and look like new young plants.

I use black soil from a cultivated garden and use about one-quarter sand and one-eighth pul-

SUNSET Magazine says  
"Fish Emulsion is outstanding"  
SO FOR

### BETTER AFRICAN VIOLETS ATLAS FISH EMULSION

The original fish fertilizer emulsion



PILGRIMS  
learned  
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FISH  
FERTILIZER

- DE-ODORIZED
- NON-BURNING
- 100% ORGANIC

A balanced diet for Saintpaulias - contains all growth nutrients. 1/4 teaspoon ATLAS per quart water for AFRICAN VIOLETS - feed every 10-14 days.

Pint Size **\$1.00** Postpaid

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SAN FRANCISCO 11, CALIFORNIA

### WHILE TRAVELING BETWEEN BUFFALO AND NIAGARA FALLS PLAN TO STOP AND SEE OUR AFRICAN VIOLETS

Pink Attraction, Corsage, Minuet Girl, Holly, Sir Lancelot, Robin Hood, Suprita, Red Princess, Autumn, Frosty, Fantasia, Blue Ohio, Lady Enchantress, Purple Lace, Double Lace, Shocking Pink, Ruffled Queen, and many others. Over 200 varieties.

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### While traveling between Buffalo and Rochester plan to stop and see our AFRICAN VIOLETS OVER 300 VARIETIES

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16 Richmond Ave.

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WE DO NOT SHIP



verized sheep manure, or home-made compost. I do not sterilize this soil. I did for awhile, baked it in the oven but could see no difference in the results, so gave it up.

My only experience with black flies coincided exactly with my neighbors having their vegetable garden covered with not too well rotted manure, about fifty feet from my open window full of violets. In about a week I noticed the tiny black flies and they became more numerous until they were quite a nuisance. Then I sprayed once a week with NNOR in real warm water, in the evenings, for about two months. Haven't had any flies since. Have never had a mealy bug in the house but am saving a bottle of strange smelling toilet water for just such an emergency -- as per Helen Wilson's suggestions.

I have never had any signs of Cyclamen mites since the first experience but am very choosy and don't just pick up every plant I see and carry it home. It is safer to buy from growers who specialize in African violets, I think.

When I had twelve windows full of violets and three hundred and fifty plants in my bedroom my family began to feel a little crowded and all became tired of carrying rain water upstairs every day. I use rain water exclusively at

room temperature or warmer and if I get out of rain water, let city water stand out one week, before using.

I had read so much about growing violets under fluorescent lights that I was very anxious to try it. Naturally I ran out of windows eventually, this winter in fact, so my husband built me a three-tiered rack about fifty inches long and twenty-two inches wide. It has a two tube fluorescent light for each tier. He had heavy sheet metal pans made to fit, two inches deep, which are filled with vermiculite. I burn the lights fourteen hours a day and keep the vermiculite rather damp all the time. The plants -- it holds three hundred -- have been in the rack just one month and the improvement in foliage and form is unbelievable. Nearly all are in bud and at least a dozen have been taken out as they just got too big.

One of the things that used to bother me about violets was the resting periods of three to six weeks between bloomings. Last year I started to feed them with Hyponex, once a week at first and then every two weeks and now I have continuous bloom on nearly all kinds. There are a few varieties, I think, that just naturally won't bloom steadily but most of them will and do, for me.

*Roigina*

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

# African Violet Plant Food

IN CAPSULE FORM

## Made Especially for African Violets

Safe and Easy to Use

**DOES NOT CONTAIN POISON  
OR ANY HARMFUL INGREDIENTS**

Roigina African Violet Plant Food is manufactured in capsule form for greater convenience. The ORGANIC contents are an essential food for African Violets. Part of the food is available at once. The balance is available as the plant uses it. This promotes growth, blossoms and intensifies color when used as directed.

54 capsules \$1.00 prepaid

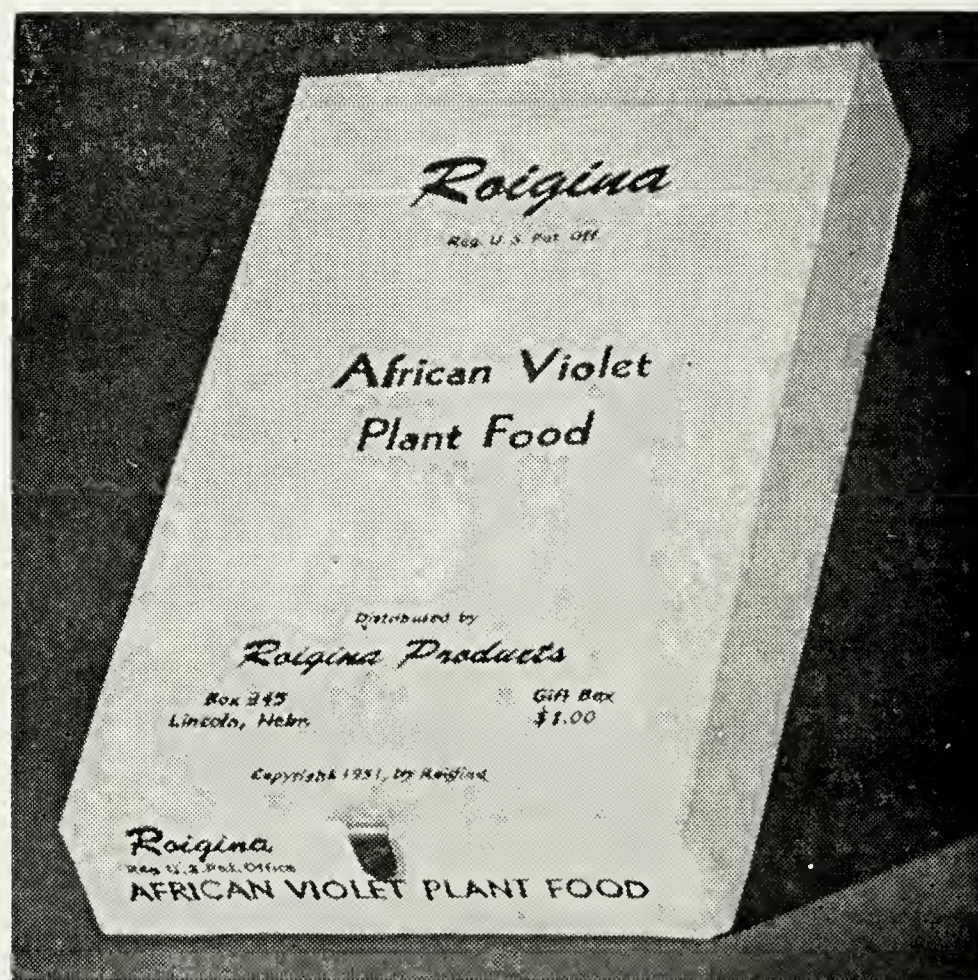
Free folder on care and culture of African Violets included

Available at Your Dealer or Write to

**ROIGINA PRODUCTS**

Box 345

Lincoln, Nebr.





I have hunted high and low for a clay strawberry jar like the one described by Montague Free, but haven't found one yet. Guess they just aren't to be had in this "neck of the woods." I do like planting a number of plants in one container and one of my favorite tricks I call a centerpiece planting. I get a flat plastic bowl, about ten inches across and make six or eight holes in the bottom with a hot ice pick then plant four or five blooming size plants in it, either all one kind or a variety. Set it in a glass pie plate and when they all bloom it's a lovely thing in the center of a dining table. Take it back to the window between meals, and it's a ready-made centerpiece for all occasions. I like a yellow bowl planted with Myrtles, a dark red bowl with Double Neptunes, and a light green bowl with Pink Queens or Snow Princes. I find a good many folks want to buy these planted with five different varieties. It's a start of a collection.

I've read many different ideas on starting plants from leaves and no doubt they all work, but the easiest and quickest for me is taking fairly young leaves (not the oldest on the plant)

and leaving about two or three inches of stem. Then I bury one-half inch of the stem in regular violet planting soil. Two to three leaves may be planted in a three inch pot, cover with a clear glass tumbler, peanut jar, or what you please and set in north window, or at least out of direct sun. I take the glass cover off when the little plants are one inch tall and divide when they are two to three inches tall. At least this has been my method for some years. But now I have a portion of the top rack under fluorescent lights full of leaves to start and they are rooting very quickly.

Of course I want another rack of two tiers. One large one to hold about fifty large blooming plants with four fluorescent tubes to light it and a narrower one above with a smaller fixture, just to start leaves. Sounds like an exciting project, don't you think?

I have not done much experimenting with seeds. As long as the experts are doing such a grand job bringing out lovely new varieties I think I will let them do that for me. I'm busy enough as it is.

## ROOTED CUTTINGS

**READY ABOUT JULY 15th.** Large clusters of baby plants attached to the parent leaf, to be grown on. Six for \$5.00. \$1.00 each in quantities less than five. Orders under \$6.00 please add 60¢ postage and packing. 2% sales tax on Iowa orders.

All varieties as advertised in our ad in the March issue of this magazine still available at same prices.

Jody	Fantasy Double Girl	Ruby Girl
Heather Princess	Fluffy Lady	Orchid Spray
Heather Lady	Lady Enchantress	Red Spooned Girl
Heather Queen	Corsage	Shocking Pink
Ruffled Geneva	Pink Attraction	Sea Shell
Dream Girl	King Neptune	Pansy
Baby Pink	Blue Ohio	Mary Lee
Fantasy Supreme	Fringed Double Blue	Snow Flake
Jungle Fern	Fringed Double Orchid	Double Lady
Pink Sunburst	Double Orchid Bouquet	Moonlight
Moon Empress (Double)	Double Velvet Girl	Helen Montgomery
Red Empress (Double)	Cranberry Girl	Fluffy Dream
Empress Josephine (Double)	Heather	
Black Beauty Double Girl	Minuet Girl	

**ROYAL HEATHER DARK LEAVED GIRL FOLIAGE, GROWS COMPACTLY, LARGE DEEP BLUE DOUBLE BLOSSOM, OUR INTRODUCTION — ROOTED CUTTINGS ONLY.**

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Seeds	Clay Pots
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Cuttings	Plastic Pots
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Bright Cheerful Colors

Clean, Non Porous Surface

Prevents Stem Rot

3 Inch Size . . . . \$2.50 Per Doz.

4 Inch Size . . . . 3.50 Per Doz.

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Box 231

Sharon, Pa.

## A REPORT FROM ENGLAND

Cont. from Page 26

After a few weeks, baby plants sprang from the six I had managed to keep alive. How proud was I to possess these named varieties, for we only grow one variety here, S. Ionantha. Some friends of Catherine sent me more seed, while others sent plants, and another very dear friend, Mrs. Kathryn Menard, of Massachusetts, sent me a box of leaves which arrived so fresh that they might have been picked that morning. So much care and thought, not to mention expense, went into the packing of these leaves that it must have been a labor of love. I cannot but remind myself that a female friend amiable and devoted, is a possession more valuable than parks and palaces. It seems incredible to me that these kind friends should go to so much trouble and expense for a complete stranger, especially since I cannot make any return.

As time went by I began to experience many "off" days when I thought, "Oh what's the use? These plants don't move, so they cannot be happy." Funnily enough, always at the right moment the African Violet Magazine would arrive. Then after having seen the many delightful pictures of the violets, I seemed more than ever determined to make a success of them. Other peoples experiences in the magazine fired me with renewed enthusiasm, and I reminded myself that I once waited for years for a banana seed to germinate. After waiting for germination of the dark, awkward looking seed for three years, I threw it on the compost heap; whereupon, a year later a twelve inch thick set leaf appeared. Imagine my joy after all those years.

When I see the lovely Saintpaulia pictures in the magazine, I know that I shall never grow them to perfection like you do over there because of our climate. However, I am very pleased with the way I am progressing. About forty of my plants are blooming, many of the flowers measuring one and one-half inches across, and I go into ecstasy as I gaze on their beauty. Can there be anything lovelier than Double Sea Girl, Violet Beauty, Pink Cheer etc. . . . All so exquisite that I cannot single out any one to be more lovely than the other.

I now possess about one hundred healthy little seedlings grown from seed, many of them in bud, besides the one hundred named varieties which I have.

I much prefer to propagate by leaf cuttings than to grow from seed, which I found takes so much longer. Many of the fallen or broken leaves have rooted in the gravel on which they have fallen, without any care or attention. I pulled up a branch of almost rotten leaves which has rooted firmly today in the gravel. The remaining stalk I shall pot up. It seems to me that the leaves will root in almost any temperature. Yesterday the



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greenhouse temperature registered 80 degrees, today only 50 degrees.

All Saintpaulia are now rooted in my new greenhouse, measuring 13 feet by 10 feet. Boiler pipes have been fitted on three sides so that I can maintain a temperature of not less than 60 degrees during the winter months (fuel permitting, of course, as we are still rationed.) I had made four large zinc trays to hold wet gravel. When the plants need a drink, I flood the trays with warm water, and the violets don't seem to mind standing in the water for two or three days. I usually give a little dried blood to those plants which have budded; this is quick-acting fertilizer, and a very effective one. As the greenhouse faces south, I painted the glass with a pale green liquid called Summer Cloud, so as to diffuse the sun.

Having experimented with many different soils, the one I feel sure the violets love best consists of unsterilized soil, peat and sand, with a little fertilizer added. Quite frankly, though, I feel that the soil is the least important in the growing of Saintpaulia. To me it is the environment that counts.

No one can tell you what to do -- you have to find out for yourself. It is not a case of "green-fingers," but rather that the plants are alive and most certainly demand care and devotion. No gardener is worth the name without these qualities, and you must have the gardener eye, ready to spot at once the plant that is crying out for help.

As I look at my Saintpaulia two or three times a day and see them growing happily beside many other plants, I feel proud of the way they look. I feel so grateful to Catherine, without whose help and enthusiasm I could never have become a Saintpaulia enthusiast. Catherine's motto surely must be, "There are no hopeless situations, only people who have grown hopeless about them." My grateful thanks also to Kathryn Menard for so generously contributing to my collection. The long and intimate association through our letters with you, my American friends, who so command my respect and admiration could not but fix my affection as well. For the rest of my life I shall remember your kindness.

Perhaps one day, who knows, I might present you with a color hitherto unknown, and should this happen I think I should name it "JUBILANT."

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## SELECTION IN COLLECTING

Cont. from Page 32

### SELECTION

Not only should the window plants have adequate room but they should be good plants and good varieties. In other words, they should have "quality." Quality is an achievement near perfection, so the plants should be kept symmetrical by frequent turnings and occasional grooming and trimming. A leggy, worn out, or dusty plant, should have no place in your collection. Neither should an inferior variety. When you find a variety that is an improvement over another in your collection, do add it to the collection but be sure to dispose of the less desirable one which it replaces. If you consider Amethyst or Blue No. 32 superior to Orchid Beauty then you should not include the latter variety in your collection. Do not just crowd it in.

Set a standard to which your collection should measure and permit no specimen that falls below the qualifications. Remember that six plants in a space which should accommodate only three will not for long come up to the degree of perfection desired. Neither are the plants shown or seen to their best advantage.

When you have schooled yourself to the above advantages of accommodation you are ready for the important matter of SELECTION. It has been mentioned before, and I can only emphasize that a poor specimen of a plant, or an inferior variety itself, has no place in a "professional collection." Strive always to improve your collection in quality rather than haphazardly adding to it in quantity. Continue to revalue, discard and replace.

The matter of selection is purely a matter of personal taste. If you are partial to orchid and red shades there is absolutely no reason for you to include the "blues". If you have a definite leaning to plants having "girl type" foliage then you should specialize in collecting plants under this category. You need not confine yourself to the dozen or so varieties that come under this foliage type for there are many seedlings available every year bearing this characteristic that can be had. Too much emphasis is placed upon variety names. The fact that an unnamed seedling might not be considered "different" enough to be given a name does not mean that it does not have a very special place in your own highly specialized and "personal" collection. Your collection should be a reflection of your own likes -- it should not be a mere mimicry of hundreds of other collections.

Perhaps you have a particular penchant toward plants that have that dark satiny type of foliage. If so, you are fortunate in that some of the loveliest varieties come under this category -- Neptune, Plum Satin, McFarland's Blue Warri-

or, Blue No. 32, to mention a few. This will make for a lovely collection. Stick to it.

Are the du Pont types your favorites? If so, concentrate on them. Or perhaps you have a strong leaning toward the Supremes (Amazons). (It is regrettable that this type should have acquired two different designations. It is hoped that the Society will take a definite stand on this matter and select one only. No one has to date selected, or substituted another type name for the du Ponts -- regardless of who originated the particular variety. Why, then, two adjectives denoting the Supreme type?)

Perhaps you are one of those rare persons who think one particular variety is far superior to all others. -- Neptune, for instance, and you are fortunate if you are able to raise "show type" plants of this variety. If so, there is absolutely nothing to prevent you from having a complete window of perfect specimens of this variety. It would, indeed, be foolhardy and inconsiderate of you to include other varieties you did not consider on a par with your Neptune.

Perhaps you are wondering at a remark previously made that your plants in your windows "should also be mature plants in excellent shape." What, you are wondering, am I to do with my newly acquired plants, or leaves until they reach the desired standard of perfection which I have set? It is realized that the high standard of "personal perfection" is not purchased from a commercial grower or even an amateur dealer. In the first place, the commercial grower does not have the time nor the room to develop "specimens" and the amateur has enough wisdom to retain them for herself. How then are you to accomplish your aims of collection Utopia? Simply by utilizing some other space not generally viewed by your visitors and friends -- a good basement window or in your bedroom. The point is, do not display the quantity of your collection but rather its quality. Show your SHOWPLANTS. Do not include in your shelf arrangements a crop of small plants in two inch pots merely because you can crowd them in. Be a "perfectionist" and above all a "specialist."

Be an individualist. If your individuality calls for being a mess, a pure unadulterated amasser, then by all means be a mess. But, if your individuality calls for finesse and subtlety, then ride your hobby only to this extent.

In other words -- be fair to your plants. Let your ego for acquisition "go by the board."

## WORDS OF CAUTION

See President's Message

Page 7



## QUESTION BOX

Cont. from Page 40

very carefully I noticed something white and powdery on the back of blooms and stems. I was not able to find anyone who could recognize it, so I destroyed the plant. Now I have another plant affected the same way. Can you tell me what it is and how to control it?

Mrs. Paul L. Frey, York, Pa.

A: It sounds like mildew to me. Apply a little Sulphur (powdered) on the top of the soil in the pot. Be sure and keep the affected plant away from the healthy ones. Endopest may be beneficial.

Q: The leaves on three of my violets cup toward the underside and are very brittle, but the foliage has a nice color and there is continuous growth. What is the cause of this condition and what can I do to correct it?

Mrs. Pearl Hotcher, Arcadia, Fla.

A: Wrote and asked this lady what variety the three plants were as some plants grow this way normally. Below is her answer as well as another question.

Q: I do not know the names of the plants I wrote you about which had the leaves cupping towards the underside and the brittle condition, as they were given to me and were not labeled. One is white and buds are beginning to show now. The other two are alike. I will try to explain the best I can. In color of its leaves, they are about the same shade as the foliage on my white plant, with almond shaped leaves and red stems. The plant is bushy. I notice some of the newer leaves are more flat. It has not bloomed but I believe there are buds beginning to swell now. The leaf stems of my plants are long and mostly upright. Some of my friends remark about this as theirs are short and more compact. Is there a cause for this, and is it good or bad? I use Hyponex.

Mrs. Pearl Hotcher, Arcadia, Fla.

A: The amount of light received does make a difference in the length of stems and size of leaves on your plants. The growing conditions in each home (water, humidity, temperature and light) affects the plants and sometimes you would hardly recognize the variety if you hadn't given the plant and knew what it was to start with.

Q: I haven't grown violets too long and what I get from the magazine is very helpful. Some of the leaves on my violets start to get brown on the tips and they keep drying up until the whole leaf is dead and dry. Then the leaves in the crown turn black and dry up.

Mrs. Virginia Kramer, Denver, Colo.

A: This is something that I have never seen. I can understand the leaves getting brown and rotting and the crown rotting but the drying up process has me stumped. Some one that has had a similar experience and knows the cause and cure please contact me.

Q: While searching through the African Violet Magazine and other materials looking for an answer to my problems, I ran across what I think is my trouble in the September 1952 African Violet Magazine under Question Box by Mrs. G. Fuller, Iowa. I brought my violets from California to Southern Alta. Canada. All fine healthy stock. Last December after we had moved for the second time I noticed the stems drooped so that they were hidden most of the time. This irked me, since I have raised plants for several years with success. I have experienced the Cyclamen mite, crown rot and mealy bug but this was different. I blamed it on the heating system, we have a stoker furnace and we live in a very dry climate. I tried to correct this but it still didn't seem to make much difference. The petals on the flowers also cupped backwards shortly after they opened. The least affected was duPonts. Then about three weeks ago I noticed my Bi-Color had a seed pod and I had not pollinated it or it wasn't near another blooming plant. I also noticed the lower leaves broke off so easily and they seemed a little withered. This is the only plant I have in a plastic pot so I am very careful not to over-water, so it didn't bother me about the leaves being a little withered. After I read this article in the magazine I immediately investigated to find it had what looks like water blisters on the main stem, especially around the leaf stems. Only my Bi-Color and Mentor Boy seem to have it the most. I isolated these and dipped the rest in a solution. I can notice a start on many more. I would like to find out immediately how to care for them. I sterilize my soil and am very particular with them so how I picked up a disease I can't understand.

Mrs. Lymon E. Jones, Milk River, Alta, Canada

A: Suggested trying Sodium Selenate capsules on all plants. If anyone has had a similar experience and found a cure please let us know.

Q: For about six and a half months I have been collecting African violets and have a collection of 72 varieties with about 300 plants in all. My plants have been purchased from reputable dealers, for the simple reason that I understood they practiced selenation, etc. About two months ago, I purchased six plants from a grower, brought them home, and although I usually isolate them for a while these particular plants I put in my show tray. There hangs my tale of woe. At first there wasn't anything noticeable, but then the center of all six began to look hard and shiny. Immediately suspecting mite, I took them all out and burned them. Then others in the tray began to have the same appearance. Two had every sign of crown rot so I immersed them all



in a warm bath of 1 ounce of Optox to three quarts of water, which is well water. After they had dried off, I gave them a dose of Sodium Selenate and put them back. That was two days ago and this evening I had to pull the new leaves out of the centers of the nine plants as they had the appearance of gray high-pile velvet. Is there something I can do to insure that the rest of my collection won't all go this way?

Mrs. Glenn Meyer, Darlington, Md.

A: This certainly should be a warning to all of us to be sure and isolate any new plants that we add to our collections. I think that the gray high-pile velvet look is caused from mite rather than mildew.

Q: Could you tell me, if an African violet soil mixture germinates an occasional weed seed, does that prove, unconditionally, that this mixture has not been sterilized or heated long enough to destroy all nematodes?

Rosa Mae Skeene, Dundee, Ore.

A: I can imagine that this question will bring forth many varied answers.

Here are a few answers that have come in to the questions asked in the March issue of our Magazine.

To Mrs. O. A. Ashby, Hanson, Ky.

I would say that Mrs. Ashby has a Royal Girl instead of Bronze Girl. Royal Girl has blue blossoms and Bronze Girl is red-orchid color. The Royal Girl has a bit more tight girl foliage than Bronze Girl but not as good a bloomer, but it is worth keeping in collection for beautiful foliage even if it does not bloom as good. I have both and if I want more blooms from Royal Girl I use a little lime in soil, also a little bone meal.

Mrs. J. D. Bolenbaugh, Jackson, Mich.

To Donna Jean Roll, Ore.

In regard to pollinating doubles: I have been hybridizing for nearly 5 years. The older doubles, Duchess, Regal Wine and others, seldom produced pollen or were equipped with pistil, often times no ovary. They seemed to be so intensely double there was no room for anything else. But our new doubles, some of which are really "crested," are fluffier, larger, more frilled, and have an overabundance of pollen, sometimes even 2 pistils, though I have yet to come across a true double with 2 fertile ovaries. Gay Lark, a fascinating freakish novelty, has huge fused blossoms containing as high as 6-7 pistils and ovaries. I have had clusters of 5 to 6 swelling ovaries, but alas, at about 2 months they all would turn brown and dry up. Upon examination nary a one contained any sign of seed. All my double seed has been in demand and sold, so that I haven't even planted any for myself. At present, have several pods maturing on an Azure Beauty plant -- one cross of lovely, huge double Magnifico, though it is just my personal opinion that more good doubles would be produced by crossing a double and

single, rather than two doubles. Would be interesting to have other opinions on this.

Helen Coleman, Marion, Ind.

To Mrs. Edith Austin, Godfrey, Ill.

In regard to Mrs. Austin's account of her "acting up" Azure Beauty. Maybe it's the nature of the beautiful critter. I bought a young sturdy Azure Beauty which grew into a beautiful specimen plant, with huge perfect blooms, all white petals, edged with blue-lavender. During the heat of last summer it stopped blooming for a short period, then bloomed dark blue and white streaked blooms. I accused the heat for this. Then in autumn it bloomed big solid blue purple blooms. Thinking that its next winter blooming would be back to white as it is now in full bloom again -- solid blue-purple again. Very attractive, but irritating. There is yet one other experiment I'm going to try. I have rather held to the idea that as long as a plant was doing well -- leave it be. But my theory is slowly changing to don't wait until a plant needs repotting, rather follow a repotting schedule. This Azure Beauty has not been repotted but once since purchased. I've found often times a good thorough shock and major operation really rejuvenates an aging plant (as it does for some humans) and many times just stirring the soil, removing old leaves and filling up with a small amount of good soil does a miracle, too. But this Azure Beauty has challenged me -- now -- so we shall see!

Helen Coleman, Marion, Ind.

Q: Is there such a thing as "blindness" in African violets such as sometimes happens in other plants? On November 2, 1952 I received an order of some of the newer varieties of violets from a company I feel sure is reliable and they appeared to be in perfect condition. One pot contained two plants of one of the most highly advertised varieties. I separated them as I did others having more than one plant. Soon most pots showed buds and bloom -- not these two. The only thing they have put up is extra crowns between every leaf and which I've removed. I started several leaves and some of the crownings and they grow like mad. Now fifteen months and many plants later, I've never had a bud on any generation. I've asked for suggestions from several professional growers and tried them to no avail. Has any one else had this experience?

Mrs. W. A. Gates, Aurora, Mo.

A: It sounds like a sterile plant to me. I have one that I have had the same experience with and now have it under fluorescent lights but nothing has happened so far.

Q: I've had some thrips on a number of plants, the scarred leaves no longer show any sign of active pests. I spray about every six weeks with NNOR and this evidently killed the thrips as I didn't discover the chewed spots on the underside of the leaves until recently and have never been able to see any of the pests. Is there any way to prevent another infestation and what is specific-



ally recommended for thrip in the home collection?

Mrs. John W. Cochran, Wheeling, W. Va.

A: Mr. Henry Peterson has a very good article about Thrips in the March 1953 African Violet Magazine on Page 8.

Q: I wonder if you could tell me what causes the tips of the violet leaves to turn black and rot. It seems not to affect the blooming. Only the largest and oldest leaves are affected. It is not caused by sun as most of my violets are in east and north windows. They are all in plastic wick-fed pots. Has it anything to do with humidity? My smaller plants in the kitchen are in fine shape. I have about 25 mature plants in bloom and they are a great joy to me. I would like to thank the readers who sent advice on my Blue Eyed Beauty problem. It is now producing the true colored flowers.

Mrs. Jos. F. Roche, Jr., Norfolk, Mass.

A: None of us can live forever and it sounds as though just the old leaves were dying and making more room for new leaves. However, it might be from too much moisture that is being retained by the wick-fed pot. It is hard to tell without seeing the plant.

Q: Could you tell me what is wrong with my violets? I have a good ground mixture -- 1 bushel woods dirt, one-half bushel rotted cow manure, one-half bushel sand, one-half bushel peatmoss. I get beautiful plants but no bloom or buds even in the direct north, east or south lights. Is it too rich? I even feed my plants once a month or so. I have lots of steam from the kitchen and the temperature does vary some. I do love violets but I have about 300 and no blossoms and this is quite disappointing.

Mrs. Myron Datka, Hales Corners, Wis.

A: Your soil mixture does sound rich but with the longer daylight you should start getting some bloom. The winter days are so short and so few of them are sunny so it is no wonder that some of us get so little bloom during the winter months.

Q: Would you put this question in the African Violet Magazine? I would like to know if there is any kind of aerosol bomb spray that is safe to use in a closed room that will get rid of Cyclamen mites and other pests on African violets, or is there any kind of fumigator that can be used for that purpose?

Mrs. Karl E. Smith, Laconia, N. H.

A: Read "Cyclamen Mite" by Harriet F. Lawton, Page 10 in the December 1952 issue of the African Violet Magazine.

Q: I have been growing violets for about three years and have had very good luck. About three months ago some of the first plants I have had stopped blooming and the leaves curled and finally the plants died. I have studied the photographs on Cyclamen mite and as far as I can see there is no resemblance. It does not affect the young plants. I have read a number of articles and so far I have found nothing that refers to this condition.

Mr. Earl R. Thayer, Parkville, Minn.

A: Here is another place for the experts to send some advice. However, in the meantime I would suggest that you spray as though the condition was mites and keep the "sick" plants away from the healthy ones.

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# **Club NEWS**

**Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor**  
**1920 W. 3rd. St.**  
**Perry, Iowa.**

**Deadline dates for Club News contributions: For September issue, June 1st; for December, September 1st; for March, December 1; for June, March 1st.**

## **HUNTINGTON WEST VIRGINIA**

The East Huntington African Violet Society of Huntington, West Virginia brought help as well as joy to the patients of the Morris Memorial Hospital at Milton, West Virginia, when they presented them with over 200 pairs of unbleached muslin booties made by the ladies of the Society. The Morris Memorial Hospital is equipped for the special treatment of poliomyelitis, and the booties are worn by the patients over corrective shoes and braces to protect the bed clothing from soil.

Shown assembling booties for the Morris Memorial Hospital are, front row, left to right, Mrs. William McCulloh, Mrs. Thomas Willey, Mrs. Norman Riddle and Mrs. Ida B. Reger; back row, Mrs. A. A. Criddle, Miss Katherine Huddleston, Esther Spencer and Mrs. Vivian Hines. Absent when the picture was made were Mrs. Paul Davis, Mrs. C. M. Barrows, Mrs. Rex Price and Mrs. B. H. Mott.



Mrs. Wm. C. McCulloh writes that this club has just become Affiliated, and that this is an example of what their club has been doing since Affiliation. They have every reason to be proud.

## **JACKSON MICHIGAN**

The Jackson African Violet Club of Jackson, Michigan started it's New Year December 9, 1952 at the home of Mrs. Robert Preston with a Christmas party and business session conducted by the new president Mrs. Viola Dewey. Games were played and home-made Merry Christmas telegrams were composed by each member and sent to Mrs. D. L. Bowers, a former member who has moved to Winchester, Virginia.

Christmas refreshments were served by the hostess assisted by Mrs. Dewey.

In November election of officers was held with the following officers being elected:

President,	Mrs. Viola Dewey
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Karl Beiswenger
Secretary,	Mrs. Albert Lambert
Treasurer,	Mrs. A. M. Fischer

The club meets at 1:30 p. m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the homes of the members.





Mrs. Theo M. Greer, member of the Scientific Committee and first Research Member of the Society holding one of her favorite duPonts.

## SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA

The Sacramento Saintpaulia Society elected the following officers:

President,	Mrs. George MacClanahan
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Wm. C. Bryant
Secretary,	Mrs. W. C. Green
Assistant Secy.,	Mrs. R. J. Langenbahn
Treasurer,	Mrs. Walter Hamel

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at the Sacramento Garden Center.

## BEATRICE NEBRASKA

The Beatrice African Violet Society of Beatrice, Nebraska was organized in 1952, and now has a membership of forty. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month.

The following officers were elected for 1953:

President,	Mrs. H. M. Souders
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Wm. Haith
Secretary,	Mrs. R. V. Wilson
Treasurer,	Mrs. George Reiff
Historian,	Mrs. Anna Rhodes

## SYRACUSE NEW YORK

The African Violet Society of Syracuse, New York was organized in November of 1951, and is already boasting a membership of well over a hundred interested men and women. The group meets once a month, on the first Wednesday evening, in the Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts.

New officers installed in January are:

President,	Mrs. Harold Reinhardt
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mr. Elston Herrald
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. G. W. Neisley
Recording Secy.,	Mrs. E. H. Graves
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. G. Howard Milligan
Treasurer,	Mr. Ben Hoag

The Club held the first Judges school in New York State on October 22, 1952 at St. Paul's Methodist Church. Mrs. James W. Minehan of Binghamton was the instructor. Eight members took the course and received judges certificates.

## HUDSON MICHIGAN

The Bean Creek Valley African Violet Club of Hudson, Michigan area started its fourth year in October 1952.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. Robert Cunningham
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Kenneth Friess
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Leslie Britten

## McKEESPORT PENNSYLVANIA

The African Violet Society of McKeesport, Pennsylvania was organized in November of 1949, with membership limited to 30 active members. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at the local Y. W. C. A. In November 1952 the annual birthday luncheon was held at the local hotel. The January meeting was a Snowball Tea held at the home of Mrs. C. H. Lacey. Tea table appointments were all white with a Snow Princes violet as the centerpiece. The president, Mrs. James Bissel and a past president, Mrs. R. L. Fait poured.

The regular meeting followed, at which time it was decided to bring small plants to the next meeting to supply the local Girl Scout Brownie Troop with their plant project.

## AKRON OHIO

The Greater Akron African Violet Society of Akron, Ohio elected the following officers for the year of 1953:

President,	Mrs. John J. Martin
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Harold Dannemiller
Recording Secy.,	Mrs. Walter Schmittel
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Cynthia Oyler
Historian,	Mrs. Chris Von Gunten
	Mrs. E. Pearle Turner
Board of Gardeners, {	Mrs. O. J. Kelbaugh
	Mrs. W. E. Snyder



## CHICAGO ILLINOIS

The Elite African Violet Club of Chicago, Illinois elected the following officers:

President,	Mrs. Webster Zeigler
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Rose Trendler
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Hugh Mac Kenzie
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Charles La Hodney
Corres. Secy.	
and Treas.,	Mrs. Lane Cooper

The officers will be installed at the March meeting, the second anniversary of the club.

## AFRICAN VIOLETS

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## GREENVILLE OHIO

The Treaty Towne African Violet Society of Greenville, Ohio was organized on April 15, 1952. There are now 53 members, 23 of whom belong to the National African Violet Society. Meetings are held once each month at the public library.

Officers for the first year are:

President,	Mrs. Daisy Christian
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Myrtle Wise
Recording Secy.,	Mrs. Elizabeth Odell
Corres. Secy.,	Miss Amelie Meyers
Treasurer,	Mrs. Wilma Rentz
Historian,	Mrs. Flossie Ware

## BUTLER MISSOURI

The African Violet Club of Butler, Missouri elected the following officers:

President,	Mrs. F. F. Jewett
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Goldie Clark
Recording Secy.,	Mrs. O. J. Crandall
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Ludwig Becher
Historian,	Mrs. W. H. Rood

## CHICAGO ILLINOIS

The Twilight Chapter of the African Violet Society at Chicago, Illinois elected the following officers for 1953:

President,	Mrs. Claude Greeley
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mr. Ray Miller
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Miss Betty Boaz
Rec. Secy.,	Miss Pearl Heavey
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Norma Johnson
Treasurer,	Mrs. Bida V. Robbins
Historian,	Mrs. Pat Snell

The installation took place on December 9th, 1952 and immediately following the members enjoyed an interesting talk by Mr. Richter of Hammond, Indiana. Mr. Richter also showed colored slides of his many beautiful African violets.

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Plastic wick pots	39¢-49¢	Ivy bowls	\$1.75
Ceramic pots	\$1.00 up	HOBBY KITS	
African Violet Books—		Kits include:	
Green Thumb	39¢	Vermiculite	
Helen Wilson	\$2.95	Planter Mix	
Montague Free	\$3.50	10 Clay pots	
Rootone	25¢	Violet Book	
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One Tray	\$1.39-\$2.00	Fertilizer	
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